

RDW-Gallery-1925-2002-INDEX

c. =circa--approximate date

- c.1925 Pioneer Communists listen as Maurice Spector makes his point
- c.1930-1 "Moriarty funeral -- one of Mac" (*RD note*)
Jack Macdonald [centre] at burial of Wm. Moriarty, founding member,
Canadian CP--Toronto
- c.1930-2 "Moriarty funeral--George Mills in front' (*RD*)
- c.1930-3 "Moriarty funeral" An impressive tribute to a pioneer Canadian revolutionary
- c.1930-4 Maurice Spector speaking full bore
- c.1932 "Anti-fascist parade July 11, 1932-33" "Free Tom Mooney & the Scottsboro
Boys" ILO-International Left Opposition (Trotskyists expelled from but still loyal
to Canadian CP -- to 1938)
- c.1933 Ross Dowson at 16 (*from Arnie Mintz: "A sketch of Ross Dowson" 1988*)
- 1934 *The Vanguard* (Workers' Party of Canada) "Unemployed organize!"
- 1935-1 Spartacus Youth League--Young workers "All out on May First!"
- 1935-2 "York Memorial Spartacus Club--York Memorial High School -- Ross top row,
Lower left Murray Dowson, right side Sadie Jourard" (*Notes by RD's sister Lois
Bédard*) "Spartacus corn roast, 1935--Sylvia is just behind Murray and to the
left"(*notes Arnie Mintz*)
- 1935-3 *The Vanguard*, "Police and Strikers Clash in East York
- 1935-4 "Norway, 1935: The person behind Natalia is probably Lyman Paine of the CP
-US) who accompanied Spector (*left*) to Norway (to convince Trotsky of the
correctness of their opposition to the SP entry") (*notes by R.D. See letter from
Trotsky's Writings 1935-36 in following Notes confirming the visit.*)
- 1937 Ross Dowson (20), a radical youth facing the challenge of coming world war and
the renewal of the Canadian movement
- c.1938# Ross the temporary student -- a brief respite as war clouds gather--in Toronto
- 1939 "WAR OR PEACE" --Workers--You are being betrayed into war!) (*SWL journal
outlawed during whole duration of War*)
- 1940-1 Paddy Stanton speaks against the war-time no-strike pledge at CLC
- c.1940-2 Future union militant Hugh Dowson on home leave in 1940
- 1942-1 Ross Dowson at Camp Borden, joining his class in compulsory arms (*bottom
right*)
near Barrie ON (*Mintz*)

- 1942-2 Ross (25) on leave, with sisters Ruth (l), Joyce (r) Lois (front) -- bittersweet wartime reunion
- 1942-3 Hugh Dowson on leave--RCAF Technical corps
- 1942-4 RD's father) Walter Lewis Dowson, 1892–1952 and (Mother) Mary Britannia Dowson, 1892 – 1954
- 1942-5 Mary Britannia Jewett, mother of six Depression children
- 1944-1 Officer R. Dowson soon to resign his commission and the Canadian Army
- 1944-2a May Day Manifesto of the Socialist Workers' League
- 1944-2b p.2- "Down with the Imperialist War!"
- c. 1945-2 Police violence on the picket-line as post-war strike wave intensifies
- c. 1945-3 Police rough up women picketers in post-war period of mass unrest
- 1945-4* Mass Autoworkers strike wins at Ford with auto blockade (**Photos from All for one--OPSEU, 1985--Wayne Roberts*)
- 1945-5* Union political action at Stelco, Hamilton -- *transforms the farmer-based CCF into an urban labor-based party*
- *c.1945-6 Meanwhile Hugh Dowson cools his heels after a 4-year stint on the Front
- 1948-1 Dowson for Labor Mayor (Toronto) RWP campaign
- c. 1948-2 Leading activists at RWP headquarters, (*back row*), 3rd from left: Myer Shapiro, Ed Aldis, Murray Dowson (*at right door frame*), Hugh Dowson; Sonia Rosenthal (*centre in front of Murray*), Paddy Stanton, *unknown*, Vern Olson (*Centre row*): Jeannette Dowson (*white blouse*), Sadie Jourard, (two unknown on right) (*Front row, sitting, l-r*) Gordon Garbig, Ross Dowson, Joe Rosenthal, Bill Brown
- 1948-3 Ross Dowson (31) leader of the RWP Toronto (1945 to dissolution 1953)
- c.1949 Hugh Dowson, skilled trades union militant until his death in 1975
- c.1950 Ross Dowson with Ruth Benson (on loan from SWP) near RWP headquarters on King Street
- 1951 On the occasion of the marriage of Jean-Marie Bédard and Lois Dowson, with Ross and her mother Mary Dowson, in Toronto
- c1952 (35) in outing with stylish, globetrotting sister Ruth
- 1953a Dec.“Vote Labor – Vote Dowson:” Murray Dowson Toronto Councillor
- 1953b inside) Dowson program as City Councillor candidate

- c.1954a* Ross on Georgian Bay ferry, hitchhiking across Canada to B.C.
- c.1954b Ross relaxing at Capilano park North Van, a 10-hour flight to visit BC comrades
- c.1955-1 RD likely proposing new name (SEL) to leading Toronto militants-- (l-r) Paddy Stanton, Joe Rosenblatt (25), Gerry Houle, Harry Paine, (unknown seated), Jim Mitchell, (couple seated facing away --perhaps Alan Harris & Pat Mitchell (SEL-On and SIC-BC fused to become the LSA in 1961) *(photo from Joe Rosenblatt, probably in bookstore basement 569 Yonge)*
- c. 1955-2 RD election photo with union (shop) "bug" appearing in new *Workers' Vanguard* newspaper *(After a 3-year hiatus in Trotskyist publications)*
- 1956 SEL mayoralty campaign; Jerry Houle (front), Ernie Tate, Pat Mitchell
- c.1956a* New recruits from Great Britain: Alan Harris (l) Ernie Tate and Hannah
- c.1956b* Gerry Houle (l) and Ernie Tate play leading roles in movement revival
- c.1957* Ernie Tate out on an early Vanguard tour across Ontario selling subs
- c. 1958-1 Vanguard Bookstore on Queen Street West *(among old buildings facing future site of the new City Hall)*
- c. 1958-2 Ross's portrait photo -- *time to move out with a bigger bookstore and public meeting hall*
- 1959-1 Downtown Vancouver picket against fallout shelters (l-r) Joe Rosenblatt, Nick Shugalo, Ken Orchard
- 1959-2 Vancouver picket in front of central Court House led by Ruth Bulloch, Ernie Tate and Ken Orchard
- 1959 -3 Vancouver picket, Jerry Houle (back, looking left), Allan Harris (centre) and Ruth Houle (forward right)
- c.1960-1 Defending Cuba -- demonstration at US Consulate, Toronto (Joe Rosenblatt holding YSA picket, Cliff Orchard & Pat Brain on right)
- c.1960-2 Pat Brain on Cuba solidarity picket at Old City Hall "US get out of Guantanamo"
- c.1960-3 Ross Dowson (43), beginning to bald, as movement grows with worker and youth recruits
- c.1960-4 Ross with brother Hugh's and wife Claire's children: (L-R) Jeannette, Eleanor, Anne and Walter
- c.1960-5 LSA veteran Vern & wife Anne Olson, Fair Play for Cuba leaders
- 1961-1 Ruth Bullock, Malcolm Bruce and Ross Dowson announce the formation of the

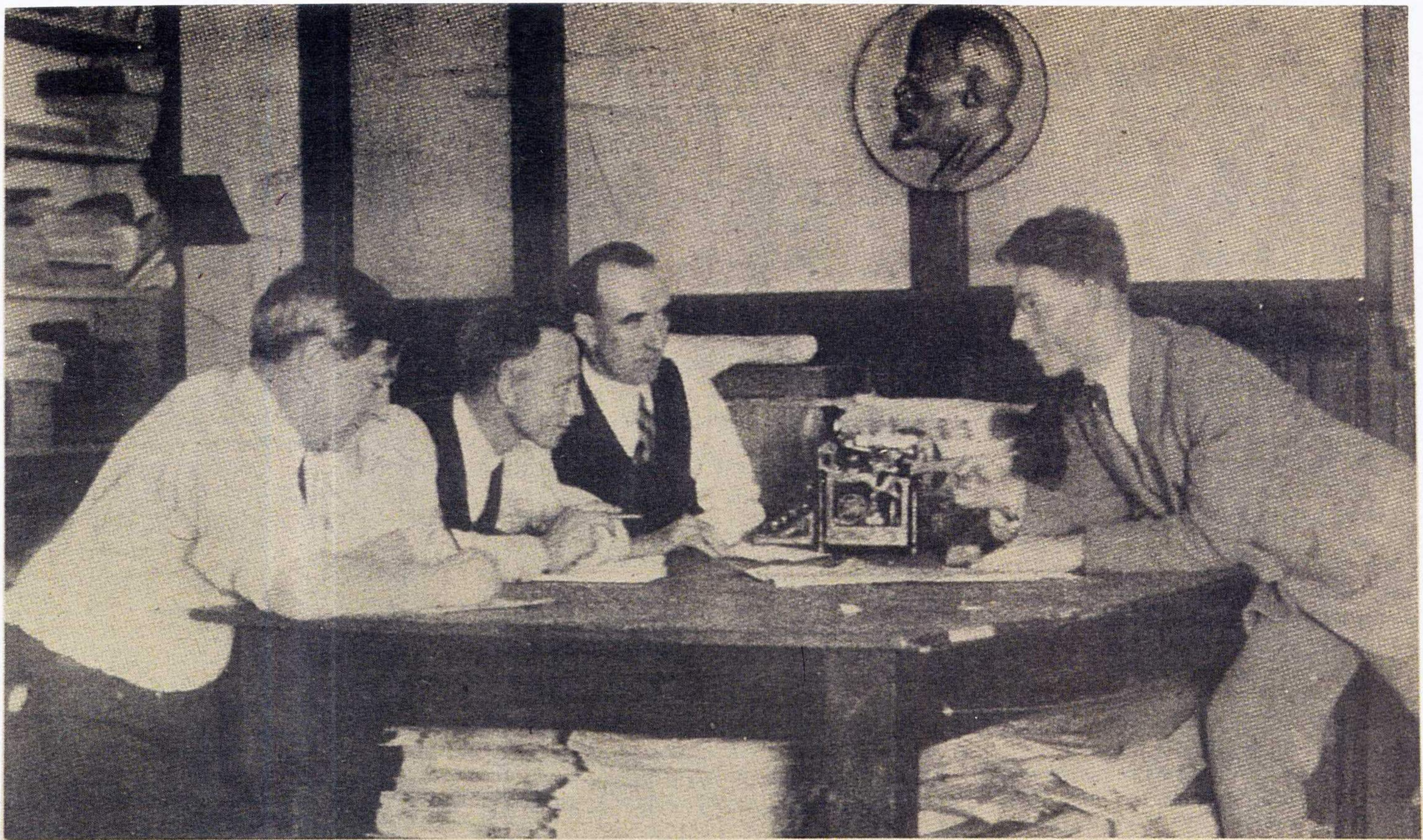
- LSA calling for an organized left caucus in the New Party (NDP)
- 1961-2 Pat Brain, Toronto unemployed workers picket at unemployed UIC office
 - 1962-1 Chair Vern Olson, US guest Dave Dellinger--Fair Play for Cuba banquet
 - 1962-2 LSA militant Harry Paine a leader in Teamster strike picket line which closed down the Toronto trucking industry for a month
 - 1962-3 John Darling proudly waiting at Fair Play for Cuba banquet in Toronto
 - 1963 Leader of newly formed NDP reveals his class bias on strike picket line
 - 1964-1 Canadian students off to Cuba to get facts -- A true Peace Corps
 - 1964-2 Hans Modlich call for all foreign troops to withdraw from the Congo
 - 1964-3 Vancouver LSA leader Reg Bullock Socialist candidate for Mayor
 - 1965-1 Ross Dowson successfully challenging public speaking ban in Toronto Parks, at Allan Gardens
 - 1965-2 Vernel and Helen Olson at U.S. Consulate leading Fair Play protest against Cuba blockade
 - 1965-3 Pat Mitchell and Peter Schulz at new Montreal LSO-HQ, 66 Guilbault
 - 1966-1 LSO organizer Pat Mitchell demands probe into police raid on LSO HQ
 - 1966-2 21-year old Jean Rands is LSA Vancouver Mayoralty candidate
 - 1966-3 Anti-Vietnam War demonstration gathering at Vancouver City Hall
 - 1967-1 Vote Dowson in Colchester-Hants -- LSA challenges NDP abstention -- oppose parliamentary agreement to seat Tory minister by acclamation
 - 1967-2 Comrade Gus Tolentino examines US napalm wound on Vietnamese man
 - 1967-3 LSO Montreal HQ - Art Young and Peter Schulz (r) at 66 rue Guilbault
 - 1968-1 Michel Mill at Montreal HQ forum where French comrade reports on massive 1968 French student-worker revolt
 - 1968-2 Joan Newbigging is Vancouver LSA branch organizer
 - 1969-1 Newly elected Chair of LSA John Riddell leads an anti-Vietnam war demonstration in which the LSA played a leading role
 - 1969-2 Riddell for Mayor for Toronto labor-socialist government
 - 1969-3 Richard Fidler, Toronto LSA aldermanic candidate
 - 1969-4 The youthul LSA slate for Board of Ed. in the Toronto civic election
 - 1970-1 Votons Manon Léger dans Dorion pour un gouvernement des travailleurs

- 1970-2 Art Young (LSO) speaking with Montreal union leader Michel Chartrand
- 1970-3 John Riddell, Tom Kerry SWP (US), Colleen Levis (LSO) and Ross at anti-Vietnam war rally (LSA headquarters in Toronto)
- c.1970-4 Lois Bedard and Anne Dowson on OPEIU working women's picket
- 1970-5 Pioneer Canadian Marxist activist Max Armsrong dies
- 1971-1 Mass rally for a French Quebec hears LSO speaker Alain Beiner
- 1971-2 Collage of LSA leading activists George Addison, Joan Newbigging, John Steele
- 1971-3 Alain Biener addressing rally for Quebec independence July 1, 1971
- 1971-4 George Novack (aka William F. Warde) principal Marxist theoretician of the SWP (USA), speaking at the LSA-YS Waterloo conference
- 1971-5 Origins of Canadian Trotskyism: Leading personalities and its Journals
- 1972-1 LSA mayoralty candidate Jacquie Henderson participating in media debate
- 1972-2 Dick Fidler is editor of the expanding *Labor Challenge* bi-monthly
- 1972-3 Long-time leading militant Pat Mitchell (Schulz) active in SEL, LSA and Forward Group
- 1972-4 Ernest Mandel, internationally-known Marxist theoretician and FI leader, speaking on tour in Canada
- 1973-1 Youth and antiwar leader Joe Young spoke often in Toronto and Ottawa
- 1973-2 Waffle leaders Jim Laxer and Mel Watkins (r) announce the formation of MISC after being expelled from NDP
- 1974-1* Ross on (short) sabbatical canoe trip after LSA split, mulling the future
- 1974-2 Le camarade Jean-Marie Bédard President International Woodworkers Regional Council in Quebec, addressing a membership local
- 1975-1 Women's Day march, May Toronto Amnesty for Dr. Morgentaler
- 1975-2 Dale Ritch wins presidency of York U. Students Council in 1975 Dale Ritch for nomination in Dovercourt NDP in 1983
- 1975-3 Harry Paine Board of Ed. candidate and activist in Socialist Rights Defence Campaign defending Ross Dowson against RCMP slanders
- 1975-4 Hugh Dowson, worker-militant and socialist 1922-1975, lost too early
- 1980-1 Ross with Polish Solidarnosc solidarity contingent, Labor Day Parade (Toronto--with Steinbok daughter & Marc Kopyto, below)

- c.1980-2 Ross & Harry Kopyto begin decade of battling the RCMP in the highest Ontario and Canadian courts for slander against legal Canadian dissent
- *1980-3 Lois Bedard leading OWW group at IWD March, Toronto March 8
- 1985-1 Vote-Elect-Gord Doctorow York Mills New Democrats
- *c1985-2a Lois Bedard, lifelong movement supporter and activist, Ross's confidant
- *c1985- Lois Bedard founding member with sister Joyce of Hemophilia Society (nephew Ron Rosenthal's condition lacked prior modern treatment)
- 1987-1 Ross's 70th Birthday celebration "55 years of Struggle," with sister Lois Bedard looking on (*40-minute video & testimonials available*)
- *c.1987-2 Lois Bedard at women's protest, Parliament Hill, Ottawa
- *c.1987-3 Array of feminist buttons in the Lois Bedard activist archive
- 1988-Jan28 Le Devoir: Dr. Morgentaler lève les bras en sign de victoire à Toronto
- 1990 Bedridden, unable to speak, Ross in hospital visited by longtime comrade and legal counsel Harry Kopyto
- 2002a March 18--Obituary, Toronto *Globe & Mail*
- 2002b Ross Dowson: His life's work was 'a labour of love'

====*End notes:*====

- 1936-1a NOTES 1936 Letter from Trotsky to J.P. Cannon (SWP)
- 1936-1b NOTES second page; see footnote confirming photo



(l-r) c.1925 William Moriarty, Tim Buck, Jack MacDonald listen as (r) Maurice Spector makes his point



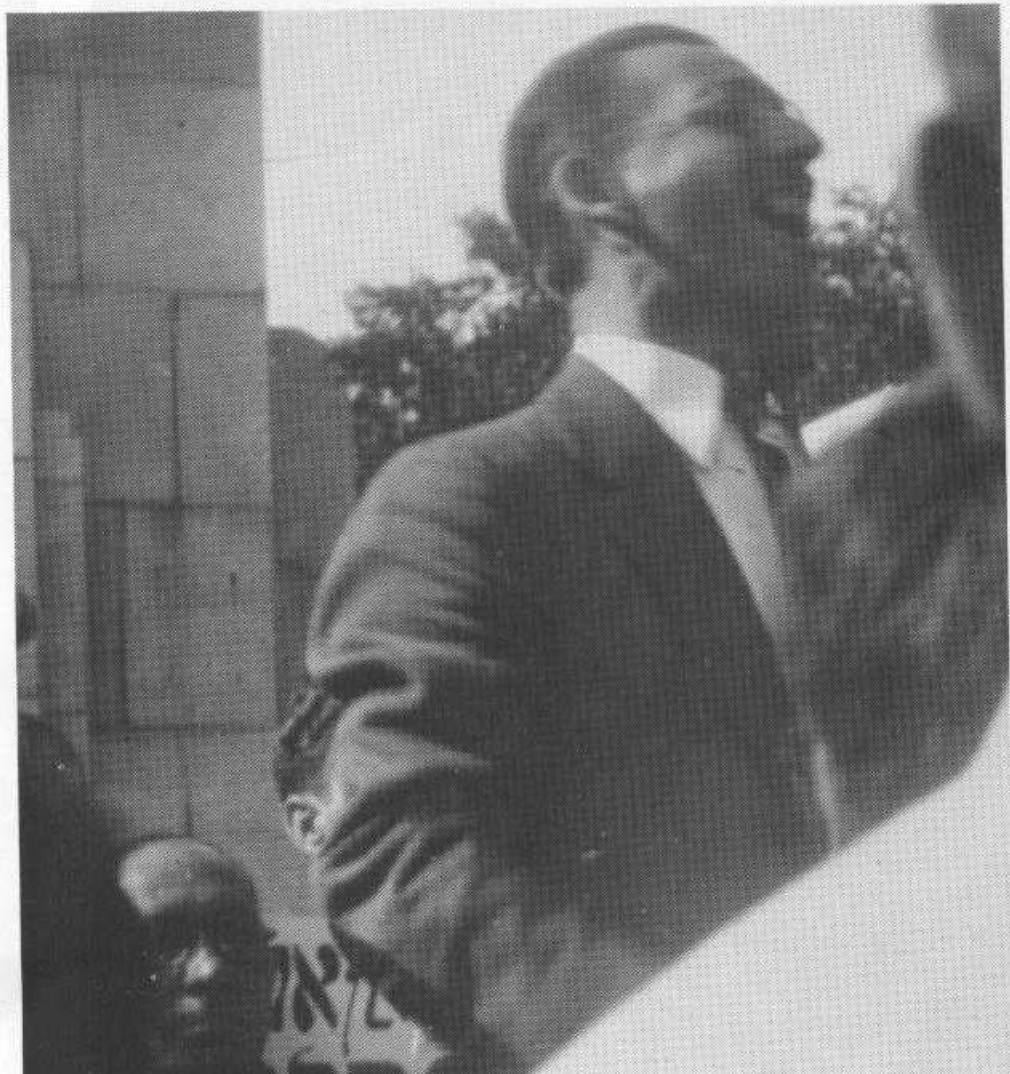
c.1930-1a "Moriarty funeral--one of Mac" (RD note)
Jack MacDonald (centre) at burial of Wm. Moriarty, founding member Canadian CP--Toronto



c.1930-1b "Moriarty funeral--
George Mills in front (RD
note)



c.1930-1c "Moriarty funeral"
(RD note) Impressive tribute



c.1930-2 First leader of Canadian Trotskyism
Maurice Spector speaking full bore



.1932-1 "Anti-fascist parade July 11, 1932-33" -- Free Mooney and the Scottsboro Boys" -- ILO-Intl. Left Opposition -- Trotskyist



c.1933 -- Ross Dowson at 16 (*from Arnie Mintz: "A sketch of Ross Dowson" 1988*)

Workers of the World, Unite!

THE VANGUARD

Organ of the Workers' Party of Canada

VOL. 2, ISSUE No. 6

TORONTO, DECEMBER, 1934

FIVE CENTS PER COPY

UNEMPLOYED ORGANIZE!

It is sad fact that during the past four years of the heaviest unemployment in the history of the Dominion there has been no real, functioning mass organization of the unemployed in the City of Toronto. There have been sporadic demonstrations which have been easily broken up by the police. There have been delegations, which engaged the City Mayor Stewart in vigorous cross firing. But that could not cover up the undeniable fact that there was no substantial mobilization of the masses in an unemployed organization that the unemployed could feel was truly their own organization. To be blunt, the responsibility for this state of affairs lay with the crude and hectic rule-or-ruin policies of the Stalinist officials who insisted on a hundred percent mechanical, bureaucratic and autocratic domination of the unemployed. Whoever would not see absolutely eye to eye with Stalinism was duly eliminated. As a result both the "block" and "ward" organization of the unemployed under Stalinist auspices were practically a failure.

It is therefore a matter of congratulation that at last the Toronto Unemployed Union has emerged from a series of public meetings at the Labor Temple, and gives promise of becoming a real mass organization. Even the Stalinists were compelled by the evidence of the enthusiastic response of the unemployed, to soft-pedal, and to offer to co-operate.

The sincerity of this offer is yet to be tested in action. It remains to be seen whether they will loyally assist in building up the Toronto Unemployed Union, or whether they will endeavor merely to subordinate it to their so-called "ward organizations" which exist mostly on paper.

So far as the Workers' Party is concerned, we will do everything we can to assist in developing a rank-and-file organization, based on democratic control, and placing the interests of the masses first and foremost. The fact that several of our unemployed comrades have been elected on the Executive is evidence that the unemployed have confidence in the policies our comrades represent.

The T.U.U. elected as its chairman, W. Kisby, A. Latham as secretary and T. Beard as treasurer. It is proposed to organize the unemployed of the city on a zone basis so that

agitation will center around the five relief depots.

The statistics of an "economic recovery" should deceive no unemployed worker. Even during the favorable periods of capitalist production the developing machine technique permanently displaces labor power and lays the basis for the standing army of the unemployed. Capitalism needs this industrial reserve army and can have no interest in its abolition. Hence there can be no fundamental solution to the unemployment problem under capitalism. Nor is the present the former ordinary cycle of hard times. The previous crises were mainly caused by the rapid growth of machine production, and expansion of the national market. But more and more Canadian capitalist economy rests upon the foundation of world economy with its contradictions and crises, military and revolutionary.

Canadian Capitalism is using all its efforts to unload its economic difficulties upon the backs of the workers. It has used the crisis to reduce the standard of living of the workers. Hence it is of the utmost importance to forge a bond of unity between the employed and the unemployed. The newly formed Toronto Unemployed Union has very properly approached the trade unions and the Trades Council for moral financial assistance and placed itself on record as willing to cooperate in opposing the bosses strike-breaking and open shop activities.

Welcome the Last of the Eight!

We greet the release of Tim Buck, the last of the eight comrades sentenced to Kingston Penitentiary under Section 93 of the Criminal Code. Despite our deep political differences and the ridiculous campaign of slander carried on against us by his party associates particularly Sam Carr on his release, that we connived with the Canadian bourgeoisie to keep the comrades incarcerated; like all other honest workers organizations we joyfully welcome the release of the class war prisoners. The demonstration accorded Tim Buck by the Toronto workers is an indication of the growing consciousness among the masses of the class nature of the capitalist state and the spirit of growing working class solidarity.

MAY DAY

YOUNG WORKERS! ALL OUT ON MAY FIRST!

This is the proudest day in the year for the working class the world over and the most forboding day to the mighty industrial magnates.

In this decisive period of world history, when every day brings us closer to the terrible conflict in which the present rulers of society will try to drown their miserable incapacity and their insatiable greed in the blood of young workers, in this decisive period the laboring youth of the world must organize its ranks and show its might. On this May Day we must in one great voice shout against this merciless machine—Capitalism! This machine though wasteful, old fashioned, unscientific, grinds on relentlessly to imperialist war. But it is not enough to protest against capitalism. We young workers must destroy this monster that we have helped to build. With granaries overflowing, clothing in abundance and luxuries for all, why do we workers allow a few millionaires—50 in Canada—to own the wealth our labor and the labor of our fathers has produced? On this day we must demonstrate the solidarity and unity of working class will against wage labor and private property. We must prepare ourselves to fight with our last drop of blood for Socialism, for the right to enjoy fully that which we create in the sweat of our brow.

What does the future hold for us? During the last 8 years our government has spent 40 million dollars of the National revenue on military equipment. This is the happy future being prepared for the sons and daughters of Canadian workers. The sixth year of the capitalist crisis finds out of a total population of ten million, two million on relief; the rest, more fortunate, barely eke out a living with their lowered wages and ever worsening conditions. Each year thousands of graduates come pouring out of high schools, technical schools and universities, eager for work, but doomed to a life of idleness, to a weary, endless walking of streets, job seeking, waiting in lines. Many will take to crime, others will be attracted by the demagogy of reactionary organizations, to Fascism—anything for a job or the prospect of one. It was just these demoralized sections of the working and middle classes that aided so greatly the victory of Fascism in Europe. But today they are becoming disillusioned, for Fascism can give nothing but concentration camps and now wars.

The "new deals" of Bennett and Hepburn, like that of Roosevelt, can do nothing but postpone the inevitable. This system of capitalism is outlived, threadbare and cracking at a hundred seams. It cannot be mended. The working class, especially its liveliest section the youth, must organize itself, join hands with its brothers in every country and put an end now and for all time to wage slavery. Only workers' power can give us Socialism. And that power can be attained only by the revolutionary overthrow of capitalism. What is immediately necessary in Canada is a revolutionary party and a revolutionary youth league. Both social reformism and Stalinism have failed in this task and have become a brake on the revolutionary advance of the labor movement. The crying need of the toiling masses is the organization of a new revolutionary international that will lead them in their struggles against capitalism. This is the task to which we young communists of the Spartacus Youth League have pledged ourselves.

We must not underestimate the responsibility that lies on our shoulders. We are in a very critical period in the history of the working class and all mankind. The working class youth must rise above its capitalist-instilled prejudices, against passivity and inertia, join the the working class movement, join the Spartacus Youth League, and throw in all the courage, determination, self-sacrifice it possesses, into the struggle for the abolition of exploitation of man by man, for the creation of a new social order.

For in the words of the great hero of the revolutionary working class youth, Karl Liebknecht, "Spartacus means fire and spirit, means soul and heart, means will and deed for the proletarian revolution. And Spartacus — means all need and striving for happiness, all fighting determination of the class-conscious proletariat for struggle. For Spartacus means — Socialism and world revolution."

ISSUED BY THE PROVISIONAL NATIONAL COMMITTEE

Spartacus Youth League of Canada

320 SPADINA AVENUE

TORONTO, ONTARIO



1935 -- "York Memorial Spartacus Club--York Memorial High School -- Ross top row, Lower left Murray Dowson, right side Sadie Jourard" (*Notes by RD's sister Lois Bédard*)

"Spartacus corn roast, 1935--Sylvia is just behind Murray and to the left" (*notes Arnie Mintz*)

Police and Strikers Clash in East York

Angry Workers Storm Council Chambers

The flying fists of East York unemployed strikers were directed against the police here on Friday November 22nd, resulting in one officer being sent to hospital. Their anger aroused by the ever-hedging council who had failed to keep an appointment with them, the strikers stormed and took possession of the council chambers. Immediately, forty county police were dispatched to the scene to attempt to oust the workers, who voluntarily withdrew after the council agreed to a meeting for next morning.

This time the council no doubt realized that the workers would not be bluffed, and were on hand for the meeting. The results were that the council was forced to terminate its period of cowardly inactivity, and agreed to go to Queen's Park on Monday the 25th, to negotiate.

Enthusiasm High

As the strike enters its fourth week there has been no sign of weakening; in fact the efforts of the strikers are now redoubled for victory is in

sight. From the beginning the strikers have been out 100%, despite some reports to the contrary. Councillor Walker on one occasion stated that 80% of the strikers wanted to re-turn to work. One has only to witness the enthusiasm at the overflow meetings of the strikers to find how much truth there is in this. As evidence of the desperation of the workers, the Strike Committee has in its possession hundreds of eviction notices. The strikers state determinedly that they will not go back to work only to have their families put out on the street in their absence. It is plain to see that they will accept but one settlement — a settlement that meets their demands. Comrades, every class conscious worker is behind you!

Vanguard November 30th 1935



1935 -- "Norway, 1935: The person behind Natalia is probably Lyman Paine of the WP (US) who accompanied Spector (*left*) to Norway (to convince Trotsky of the correctness of their opposition to the SP entry (*notes by R.D. See letter from Trotsky's Writings 1935-36 in following Notes confirming the visit.*)

HOW TO WORK IN THE SP³⁰⁷

March 9, 1936

Dear Comrade Cannon:

I am not yet in possession of the decisions of the last conference. I hope, however, that everything went off well. In any case, I have received a telegram from Comrades Muste, Spector, and Abern in which they announce their loyal support of the decision adopted.³⁰⁸

The most important thing now (should entry into the SP be realized) is to carry out our work both solidly and effectively.

In America today you have no such burning questions as in France. The exposure of the centrist leaders will be difficult, to a certain degree, for what is involved is after all not the employment of such arguments as are weighty only for our own comrades but pass off without effect upon the Socialist rank and file. Besides, in France, also, far too much energy was expended upon the frequently purely phraseological "exposure" of the leaders, and too little for a more deep-going work at the base, especially among the youth. This error, in my opinion, you should seek to avoid in America.

An important component part of our work is to win the younger, thoughtful elements—who are able to develop—for our program, for our past, and thereby also for our future. This can occur only by means of well-organized propaganda. Our comrades can perhaps arrange a series of courses for the youth, but also for the adults: on the October Revolution and the Soviet Union, on the Chinese revolution, on the developments in Germany and Austria, on the Spanish revolution, on the program of the Comintern, and so on, and so forth. This "quiet" work would immediately present before the best Socialist elements the immense superiority of our cadres and thereby also make them more attentive to and approachable by our open, current criticism.

Naturally, I am not contrasting this propagandistic work, in

any case, to mass work. Quite the contrary. To draw the local organizations of the SP into local struggles and to evoke the necessary differentiation in their midst on the basis of these struggles remains the foremost task of our faction. The more deep-going propaganda must, however, create points of support among amicably inclined elements in every Socialist organization and therewith first make possible their being drawn into mass actions. Otherwise, in the event of a rupture with the centrist apparatus, only those elements who have more or less theoretically grasped the content of our struggle will be with us.

So far as the criticism of the centrist leadership is concerned, it is very important to pay attention to this: that this criticism should not lose itself in side issues which can only irritate the Socialist following, but should be concentrated upon *well chosen and important questions*. There is a certain danger that our comrades will react in meetings with mockery and contempt to the centrist superficialities and platitudes. From the very beginning this may create an unfavorable atmosphere for us. For the simple member who does not have the necessary political training, it is difficult to raise himself to the level of our criticism, and therefore irony (even the most deserved) can have a disturbing, suspicion-arousing, and exasperating effect upon the rank and file. This gives the centrist leaders the opportunity to mobilize these sentiments against us. Therefore, the greatest patience, a calm, friendly tone, are indispensable. Naturally, the tone can and will change when you already have the necessary points of support and when big political questions come up on the agenda.

All this is of course not quite so easy, for the thing cannot be played as if from a music score. But since we have good cadres with serious experience, you can, I believe, suggest a definite method of work to all our comrades.

All these considerations are of course much too abstract and surely three-quarters superfluous, for, close at hand, you see the things there much more concretely than we do here.* I only wanted, in any event, to communicate to you these suggestions, which come out of the French and partially also out of the Belgian experiences.

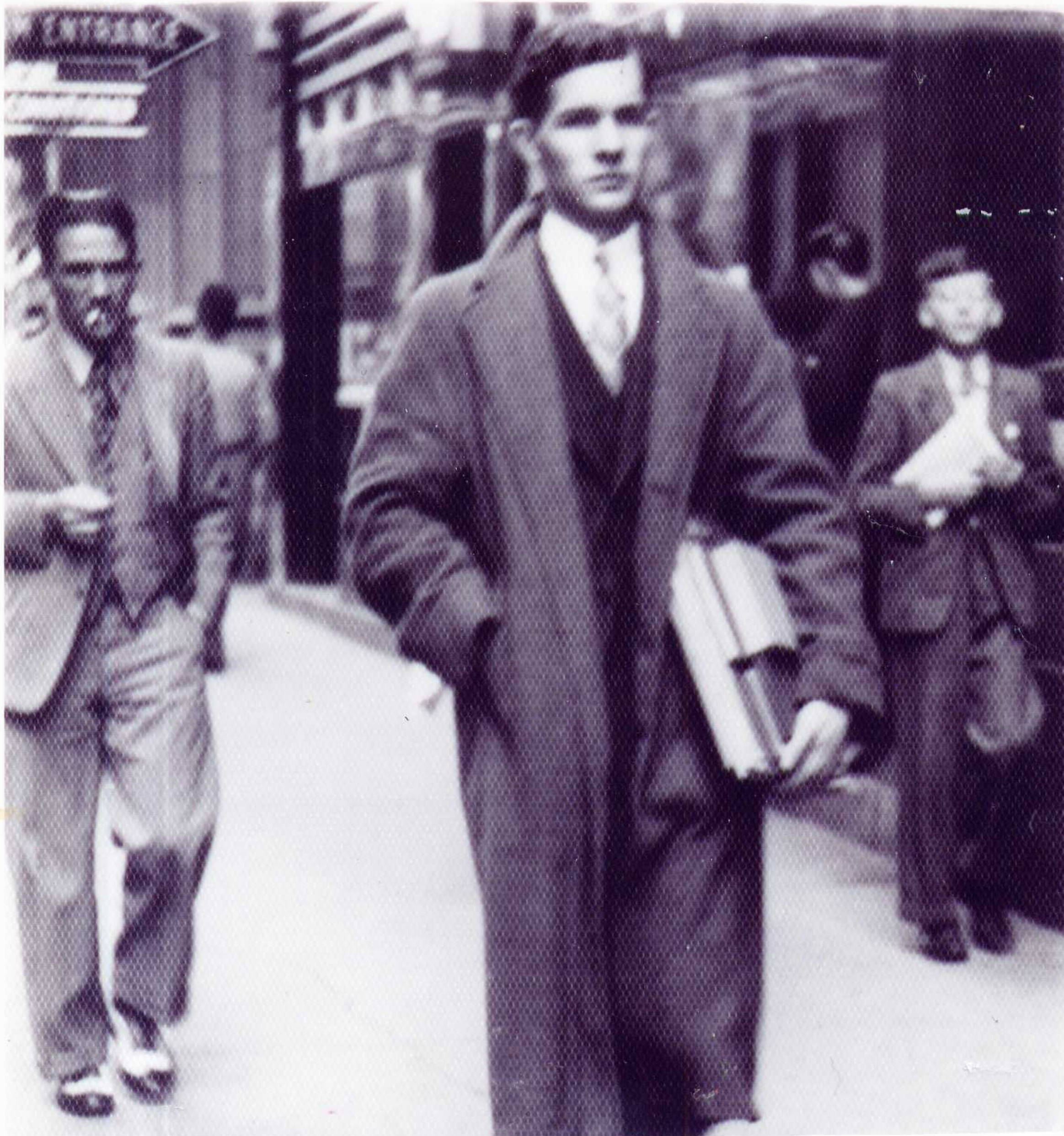
Information about what happens in America will be very important for our International. It would naturally be *highly imprudent* to send off official reports, etc. But a *young* comrade, let us say Comrade Roberts, could send the necessary communications (impressions, plans, etc.) in the form of *private letters*, without thereby formally committing the leadership of our faction.³⁰⁹ But it is very important that we here be kept steadily informed about your new experiences.

With heartiest greetings,
Yours fraternally,
L. Trotsky

*That is why I make these suggestions only in a private letter; they seem to me to be entirely inadequate for a letter to the leadership. Besides, I spoke briefly on this score with Comrades Spector and Paine.



1937 -- Ross Dowson (20), a radical youth facing the challenge of coming world war and the renewal of the Canadian movement



**Ross (c.1938) the temporary student in Toronto
-- a brief respite as clouds of World War 2 gather**



WAR OR PEACE

**WORKERS OF CANADA! TODAY, AS IN 1914, YOU ARE
BEING BETRAYED INTO WAR!**

The Dominion Committee of the Canadian Communist Party (*Clarion*, Aug. 26)

LIES when it says this will be "a just war... a war in defense of democracy".

The TRUTH is that the imperialist bosses of Britain and France want to protect their profitable colonies by crushing their German-Italian rivals now.

The TRUTH is that "democracy" has never existed in their colonies and NO LONGER EXISTS IN BRITAIN OR FRANCE.

The *Clarion's* editor (Aug. 26)

BETRAYS when he asks you to "defend the independence of Poland and preserve peace".

The TRUTH is that the Polish masses have no independence. They are ruled by reactionary landlords and army officers who have massacred Jews, outlawed the Communist Party, and deprived the millions of Ukrainians and other minorities of democratic rights.

The TRUTH is that only hypocrites talk of "preserving" peace by making war.

The Communist Party leadership

LIES when it says "the national security and territorial safety of Canada is imperilled" —

The TRUTH is that the Tim Bucks are aiding the Colonel Drews in fomenting a war hysteria —

CONFUSES when it blames Chamberlain for encouraging Hitler.

The TRUTH is that IT WAS STALIN WHO HASTENED THE CRISIS BY GIVING HITLER THE GO-AHEAD SIGNAL —

CONCEALS when it says the Stalin-Hitler deals are simple non-aggression and trade pacts.

The TRUTH is that Russia is committed to supplying Hitler with materials and REFUSING MATERIALS TO POLAND when war comes between them. Read article 2 of the "non-aggression pact" (not printed in the *Clarion*).

The TRUTH is that STALIN has sabotaged his own fake "peace front" with the "democratic peace-loving countries".

The TRUTH is that TROTSKY WAS RIGHT when last October he predicted a treacherous deal between the Kremlin bureaucracy and the Nazis.

WHAT IS TO BE DONE

The Third International is dead. In Canada its leaders join with CCF leaders in preparing for enlistment in the army of the bosses.

BUT THE FOURTH INTERNATIONAL LIVES. Its Canadian section, the Socialist Workers League, calls for ENLISTMENT IN THE RANKS OF THE WORKERS in RESISTANCE to the coming war.

The CP's Dominion Committee demands that King declare for war without waiting for Parliament. We stand for strike, boycott and other forms of organized independent working-class resistance to Canadian participation in the war.

We stand for the continued struggle to overthrow capitalism, against the main enemy, our own capitalists.

We stand for solidarity with the workers of Germany and Italy, against their fascist overlords. We declare that they will be aided in overthrowing their own governments by our fight here at home. We can not make socialists of them by shooting them.

CANADIAN WORKERS EVERYWHERE! JOIN WITH US IN BUILDING THE CANADIAN ANTI-WAR PARTY!

ONLY SOCIALISM CAN END WAR!

THE FIGHT FOR WORKING CLASS FREEDOM IS THE FIGHT AGAINST IMPERIALIST WAR!

To get in touch with us
write Box 185, Toronto.

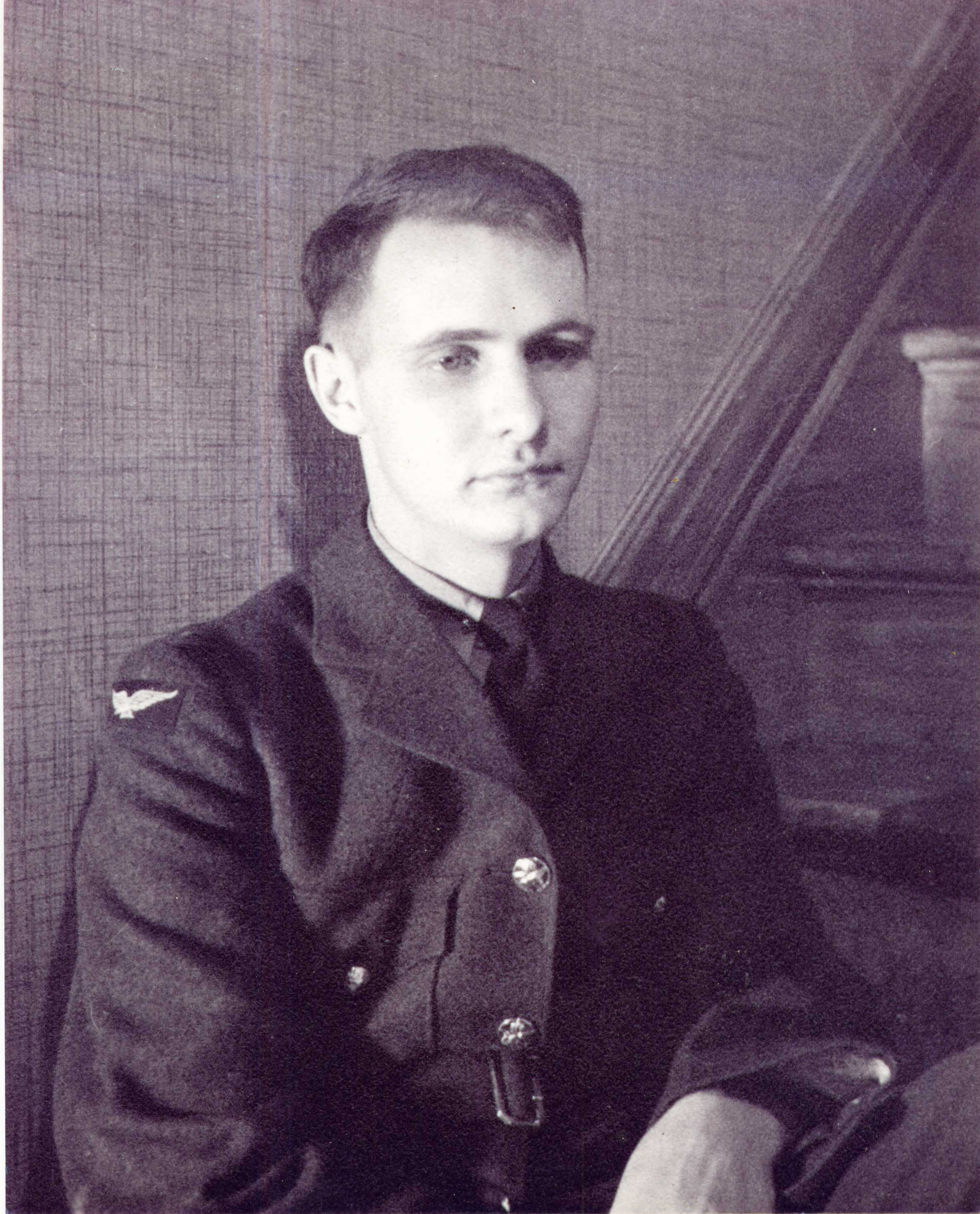
ISSUED BY THE SOCIALIST WORKERS LEAGUE
CANADIAN SECTION OF THE 4TH INTERNATIONAL

PRINTED BY VOLUNTARY LABOUR

**1939 -- Workers--You are being betrayed
into war!) (SWL journal outlawed)**



GEORGE 'PADDY' STANTON. At the height of the Second World War, when the Stalinist-influenced delegates were attempting to saddle the Canadian Congress of Labor convention with a no-strike pledge, Stanton gave the main opposition speeches. At time of his death in 1960, he was chairman of the Socialist Education League, forerunner of the League for Socialist Action/Ligue Socialiste Ouvrière.



Future union militant Hugh Dowson on home leave c. 1940



**1942 -- Ross Dowson at Camp Borden
joining his class in compulsory arms
(bottom right) near Barrie ON (Mintz)**



**1942--Ross (25) on leave, with sisters Ruth (l), Joyce (r)
Lois (front) -- bittersweet wartime reunion**

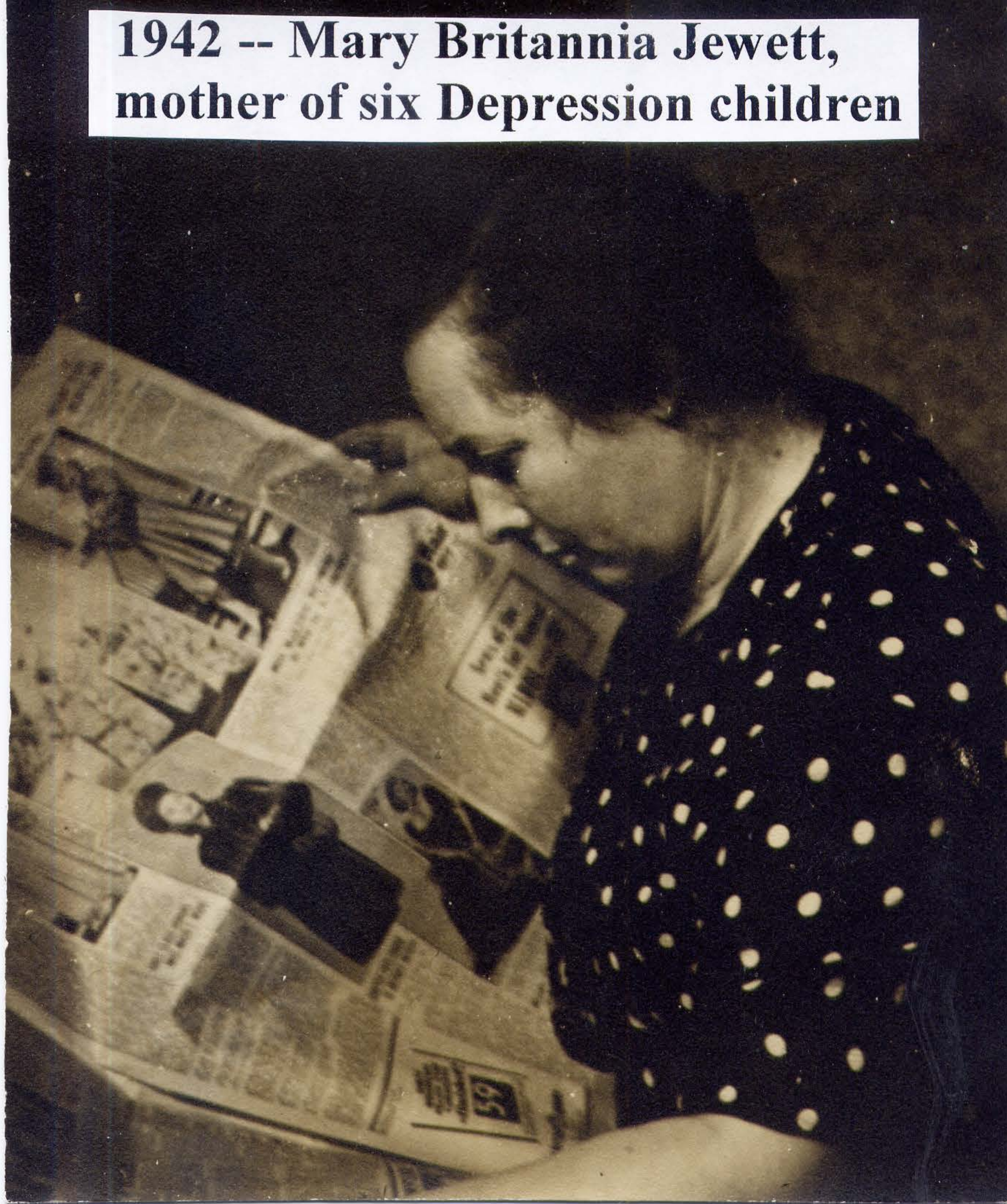


**Hugh Dowson
on leave--RCAF
Technical Corps**

**1942 (RD's father) Walter Lewis Dowson, 1892–1952
and (Mother) Mary Britannia Dowson, 1892 – 1954**



**1942 -- Mary Britannia Jewett,
mother of six Depression children**





**1944--Officer Ross Dowson, about to resign
his commission and the Canadian Army**

MAY DAY MANIFESTO

SOCIALIST WORKERS' LEAGUE

CANADIAN SECTION OF THE FOURTH INTERNATIONAL

MAY 1, 1944.

WORKERS OF THE WORLD, UNITE!

MAY DAY, 1944, the fifth MAY DAY of the second imperialist war finds the workers of Canada still and passive, overwhelmed by the capitalist war machine and betrayed by their leaders. While the workers are regimented in their jobs and afraid to speak what is in their minds, the bosses are attempting, through the wage freeze and unbearable tax burdens, to make the workers pay the whole cost of the war. While the living standards of the masses steadily decline, while they are paralysed by the treacherous policy of the trade union bureaucracy, the capitalist class grows fat on soaring profits. "cost-plus" contracts and government subsidies drawn from the pockets of the workers. The campaign of lies and slander against the CCF is, in reality, only the opening gun in a general campaign against all labour and against the TRADE UNION movement. Frightened by the growing power of the workers as revealed in CCF gains, the capitalist class is consolidating its position for a final assault on the living standards and democratic rights of the masses.— after the war. For the bosses,— continuing profits and more intensive exploitation of the workers. For the workers themselves, piece work, company unionism, unemployment and pokey.

MIS-LEADERS OF LABOUR

MAY DAY, the day dedicated to the international solidarity of the working class, will pass unnoticed by the mis-leaders of labour the Labour Progressive Party and the CCF. The former act as strike breakers and are now 100% supporters of capitalism. Their slogan of "national unity" means — unity with the exploiters and war mongers. The CCF has abandoned the Regina Manifesto and has forgotten its muddle headed pacifism of the pre-war years: it silently aids and abets the labour bureaucrats in organising the workers for the imperialist slaughter. Its leaders are in the process of forgetting their radicalism as the plums of parliamentary office come almost within their grasp. To the foul slanders of the capitalists they reply with speeches to Rotary Clubs and other organizations of the bosses where they try to prove that they are really no threat to the bosses' position.

THE ONLY ROAD

Hamstrung on the economic front, faced with the betrayal of their political leaders, the militants in the labour movement are coming slowly but surely and with ever increasing tempo towards the position of the Fourth International. This is the only road for the Canadian workers — the road of International Socialism. Without it there will be no peace. Without it there will be no jobs.

THE IMPERIALIST WAR

On the shores of England, the finest section of the Canadian working class are poised for the invasion of Europe. What this will mean has already been made clear in North Africa and Italy where the "democrats" have entered into pacts with Vichy-ites, fascists, reactionaries of all stripes. The smoke screen of the Four Freedoms has evaporated in the face of the realities of imperialist power politics. At Quebec, Cairo and Teheran the leaders of the so-called United Nations with a behaviour worthy only of Oriental despots have laid secret plans for the division of the plunder. But already the fictitious unity of the allies is breaking down. American and English capitalists quarrel over international airways over oil rights in Arabia, while the Kremlin bureaucracy pursues its own contradictory aims.

On one point all the warring countries, Axis and Allied alike, are agreed—the suppression of the worker's revolution in Europe and Asia. From this flows the collaboration with the reactionaries Darlan, Giraud and DeGaulle in North Africa and with the fascist Badoglio in Italy. To this aim Stalin committed himself at Teheran.

(over)

THE COMING REVOLUTIONS

A force greater than the vaunted power of the imperialists, rotten with internal decay, will say the final word. As a result of the heroic struggle of the Red Army and the Soviet workers in defence of the gains of the October Revolution, the fascist war machine is fast weakening. Already the forces of socialist revolution are on the march in Europe. On the eve of the invasion, England, one of the most powerful of the imperialist nations, is torn apart with militant strikes against the bosses and against the Bevin and Morrisons, the fakery and class collaborationists of the Labour Party. In Italy the revolution is held in check only by Anglo-American guns in the south and German guns in the north, aided by Allied bombing of the workers' quarters in Milan and Turin. A manifesto issued at Bari by the Communist Internationalist Party (Fourth International) calls for a militant struggle against "democratic" and fascist imperialists alike. In Germany, in spite of ten years of fascist terrorism, a new revolutionary communist centre is being organised. To the fascist "NEW ORDER", to the plans of the allies for reactionary and semi-fascist regimes supported by allied bayonets, the workers of the world counterpose the slogan, United Socialist States of Europe.

THE FOURTH INTERNATIONAL

In all countries the capitalists strike first at the vanguard of the workers the inheritors of the traditions of Marx, Lenin and Trotsky, the Fourth International. In the United States, eighteen trade unionists and leaders of the Socialist Workers' Party were sentenced to prison on the day of Pearl Harbour. In England, on orders from Morrison (who ordered the release of the fascist Mosley) the offices of the Revolutionary Communist Party (Fourth International) were raided and their files seized. In Japan, the government has suppressed food riots, dissolved the Japanese Farmer's Union and forcibly broken up a mass meeting of the Japanese Worker's Party of Tokyo.

Lashed by unbearable internal contradictions, capitalism is driving the whole world to the edge of the abyss. In all countries the workers die in droves while the profits of the bosses continue to rise. It will end only when the workers of Great Britain and Germany, of the United States and Japan extend to each other and to the workers of the Soviet Union the hand of comradeship and drown the barbaric roar of imperialist cannons and bombing planes with the cry:

WORKERS OF THE WORLD UNITE!

DOWN WITH THE IMPERIALIST WAR!

FOR SOLIDARITY WITH THE WORKERS OF EUROPE UNDER THE FASCIST YOKE!

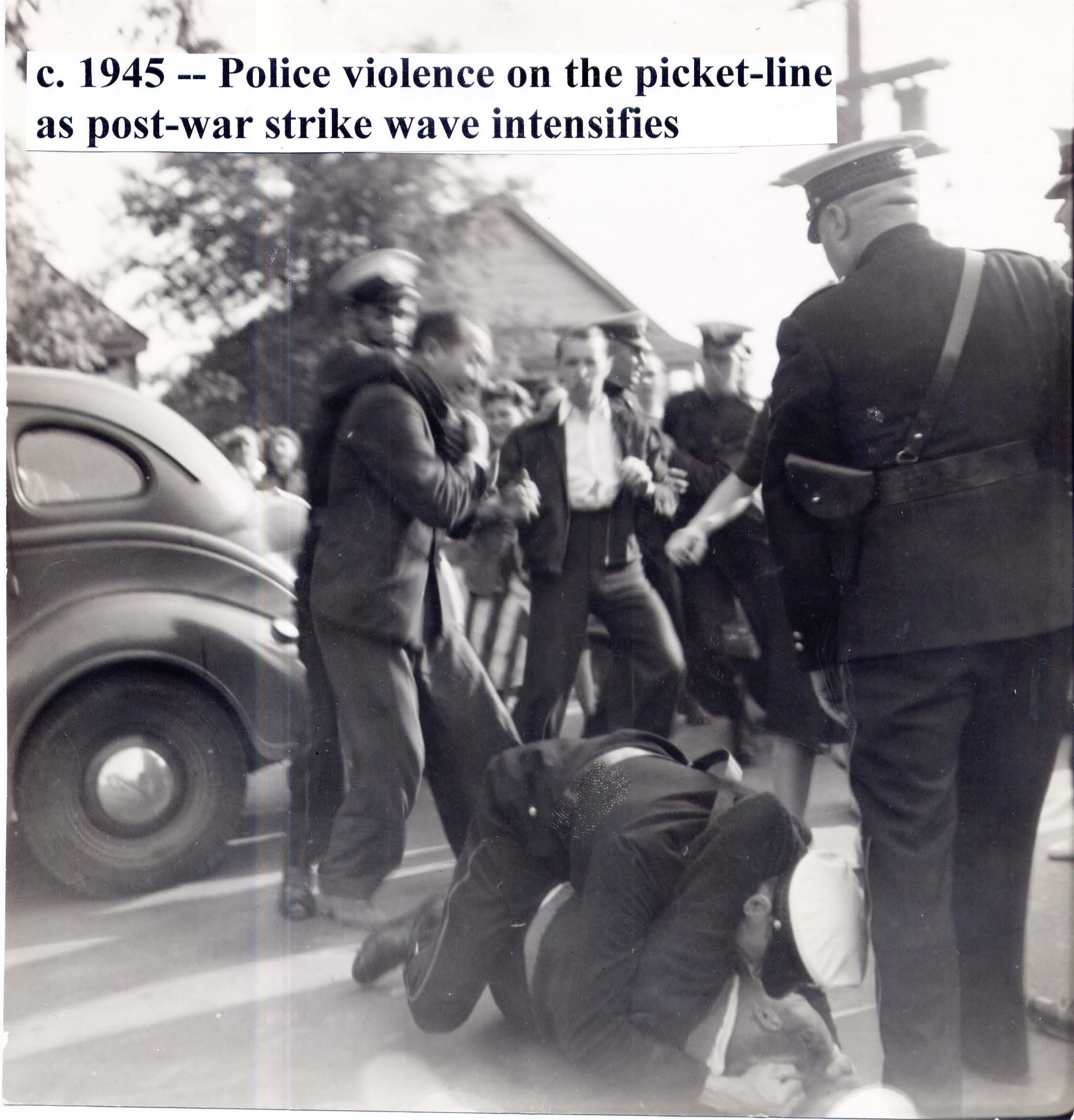
ALL AID TO THE INDIAN, CHINESE AND COLONIAL PEOPLES

FOR THE DEFENSE OF THE SOVIET UNION AGAINST IMPERIALIST ATTACK!

FORWARD TO SOCIALISM UNDER THE BANNER OF MARX, LENIN AND TROTSKY!

LONG LIVE THE FOURTH INTERNATIONAL!

**c. 1945 -- Police violence on the picket-line
as post-war strike wave intensifies**





**1945 Mass Autoworkers strike wins at Ford
with auto blockade**

*(*Photos from All for one--OPSEU, 1985--Wayne Roberts)*



Union political action at Stelco, Hamilton -- *transforms the farmer-based CCF into an urban labor-based party*



**Meanwhile, Hugh
Dowson cools his heels
after a 4-year stint on the
Western Front c.1945**



CLASS STRUGGLE, NOT CLASS COLLABORATION. Under Stalin, Communist party degenerated into supporting capitalist parties like Liberals. Trotskyists have consistently supported principle of independent labor political action, as represented today by NDP. Above, author Ross Dowson, executive secretary of LSA LSO, during 1948 campaign for Toronto mayoralty as candidate of LSA predecessor, Revolutionary Workers Party.



**c. 1948 Leading activists at RWP headquarters,
(*back row*), 3rd from left: Myer Shapiro, Ed
Aldis, Murray Dowson (*at right door frame*),
Hugh Dowson; Sonia Rosenthal (*centre in front
of Murray*), Paddy Stanton, *unknown*, Vern Olson
(*Centre row*): Jeannette Dowson (*white blouse*),
Sadie Jourard, (two unknown on right)
(*Front row, sitting, l-r*) Gordon Garbig, Ross Dowson,
Joe Rosenthal, Bill Brown**



**1948-2 Ross Dowson (31) leader of the RWP
Toronto (1945 to its dissolution in 1953)**



Hugh Dowson, c. 1949, WW2
veteran to become unionist militant



**c. 1950 -- Ross Dowson with Ruth Benson
(on loan from SWP) near RWP headquarters
on King Street**



**1951 -- On the occasion of the marriage of
Jean-Marie Bédard and Lois Dowson, with Ross
and her mother Mary Dowson, in Toronto**



**c1952 Ross (35) in outing with stylish,
globetrotting sister Ruth**

VOTES FOR ALL AT 21

All residents who qualify for the vote in Federal or Provincial elections should have the vote in Municipal Elections.

FOR GREATER FINANCIAL AID TO THE MUNICIPALITY

I would press for greater provincial aid to the municipality and for federal aid to meet rising educational costs. While most candidates will give lip-service to this demand, I suggest that political supporters of either the present federal or provincial governments are hardly in a position to claim to be fighters for this necessary measure.

Murray Dowson is a toolmaker, 38 years of age, married and a resident of Ward 1, York Township. Born in Toronto, he spent most of his youth in Ward 2 in the Township where he attended York Memorial Collegiate. He is an active member of Local 28, United Automobile Workers, CIO-CCL. During the capitalist crisis of the "thirties," which resulted in widespread unemployment and finally the tragedy of World War II, he was secretary of a branch of the York Township Workers Association. His experience in the labor movement includes jobs as steward, committeeman and negotiator in both AFL and CIO unions and as writer for the labor and socialist press.

Murray Dowson is a supporter of the CCF and a delegate from his local union to the Toronto and Lakeshore Labor Council. His local has endorsed his candidature. For further information phone RE. 8476.

Murray Dowson Toronto Councillor
1953.

DOWSON Murray **X**



VOTE LABOR-VOTE DOWSON



Why You Should Vote Dowson Ward 1 Councillor

The majority of the electorate of Ward I, York Township are working people. They depend on wages, a salary, or a pension, and not on dividends or profits for their livelihood. They are either tenants or small home owners. The tenants are faced with the threat of rent increases and the homeowners with rising taxation.

On December 5th the counting of the ballots will determine whether they will send a man who understands their problems, because he shares them, to sit as their councillor on the Township Council, or whether—by their votes or failure to vote—they will return the familiar type of Tory or Liberal businessmen, who cannot represent them, to Council.

By the strong support given in the past to labor endorsed candidates in Federal and Provincial elections in South York, York Township has become known as a labor stronghold. Now this support must find expression on the municipal field. Last year less than 21 per cent of the electorate voted. This year be sure to vote and vote labor. **Vote Dowson for councillor for Ward I.**

VOTE NO ON TWO-YEAR TERM

Let us continue to make the Council answerable to the electorate every year.

1953- Murray Dowson's municipal program; as a unionist and CCF supporter (post-RWL, during witch-hunt mid-1950s)

RENT CONTROLS

Despite the continuing scarcity of housing in this area both the Federal and Provincial governments have callously stepped out of this field. Provincial rent controls, inadequate as they are, will come to an end next March. I stand for the Township taking over this responsibility to the electorate by continuing rent controls and making any necessary changes in the law that are required to make it workable and fair.

GRADUATED ASSESSMENT

In order to protect the working people who are owners of small homes, I propose a graduated exemption on small homes. Toronto has an exemption of this type. Now with the introduction of a uniform system of assessment in the Metropolitan area this is urgently needed in York Township.

METROPOLITAN COUNCIL

The provincial law which set up the Metropolitan Council governing greater Toronto should be amended. Membership on this council should be based on the democratic principle of representation by population. At present the small Village of Forest Hill has the same representation as populous York Township. A low rental housing plan should be initiated by this Metropolitan Council as its most important immediate task. Next should come the amalgamation of services to cut down waste. Another immediate task is the municipalization of the Consumers Gas Company. Should Consumers Gas carry out its plans to import U.S. gas to supply the greater Toronto area, a nationally owned trans-Canada gas line supplying cheap gas from the Alberta fields would be rendered impracticable.

DOWSON FOR COUNCILLOR WARD 1 - DEC. 5th, '53



**Ross on Georgian Bay
ferry, hitchhiking
across Canada to B.C.**



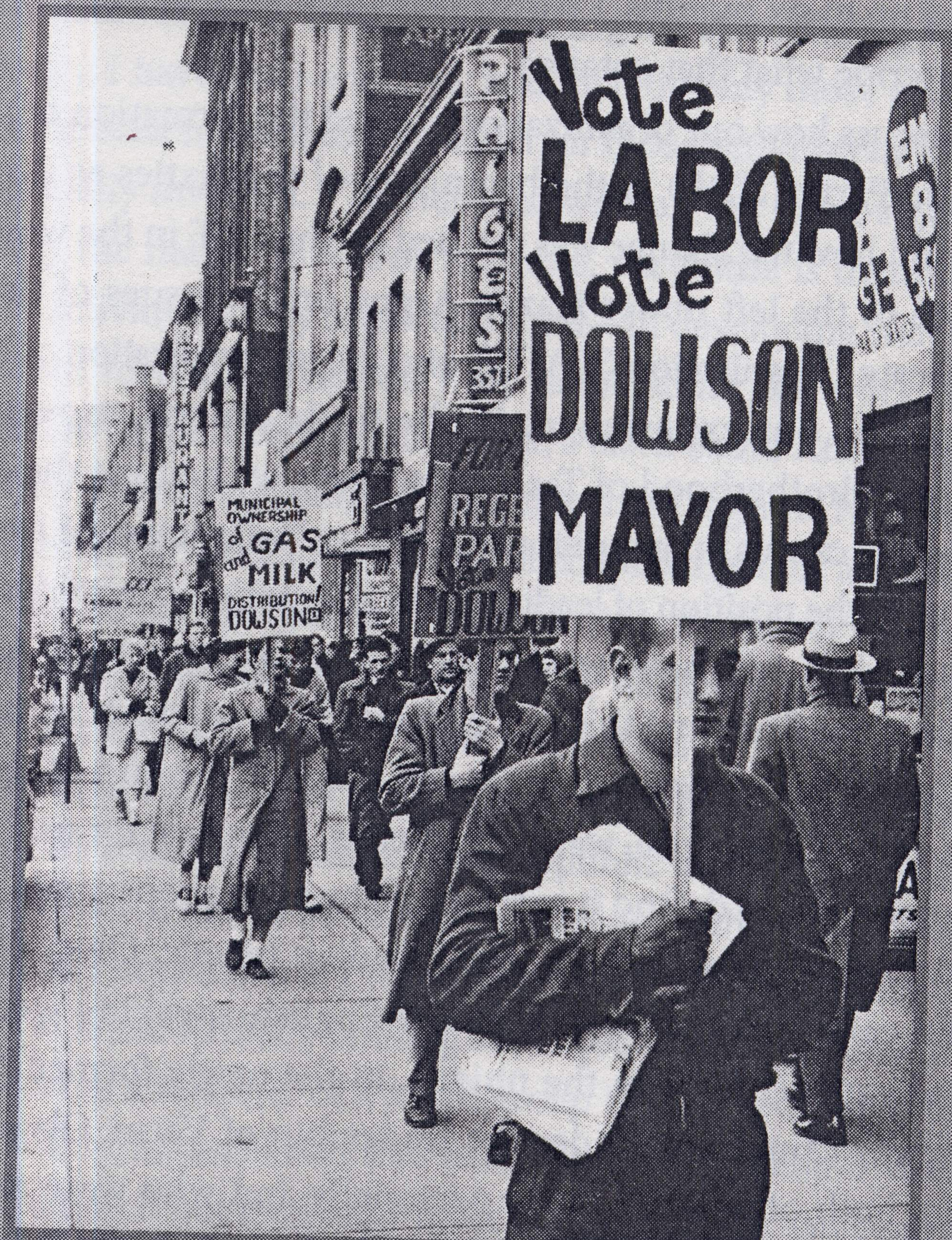
**c.1954 - Ross relaxing at Capilano
park North Van, after a 9-hour flight
to visit West Coast comrades**



c.1955 -- RD likely proposing new name (SEL) to leading Toronto militants-- (l-r) Paddy Stanton, Joe Rosenblatt (25), Gerry Houle, Harry Paine, (unknown seated), Jim Mitchell, (couple seated facing away --perhaps Alan Harris & Pat Mitchell (*SEL-On and SIC-BC fused to become the LSA in 1961*) (photo from Joe Rosenblatt, probably in bookstore basement 569 Yonge Street)



c. 1955-2 RD election photo with union (shop) "bug"
appearing in new *Workers' Vanguard* newspaper
(After a 3-year hiatus in Trotskyist publications in Canada)

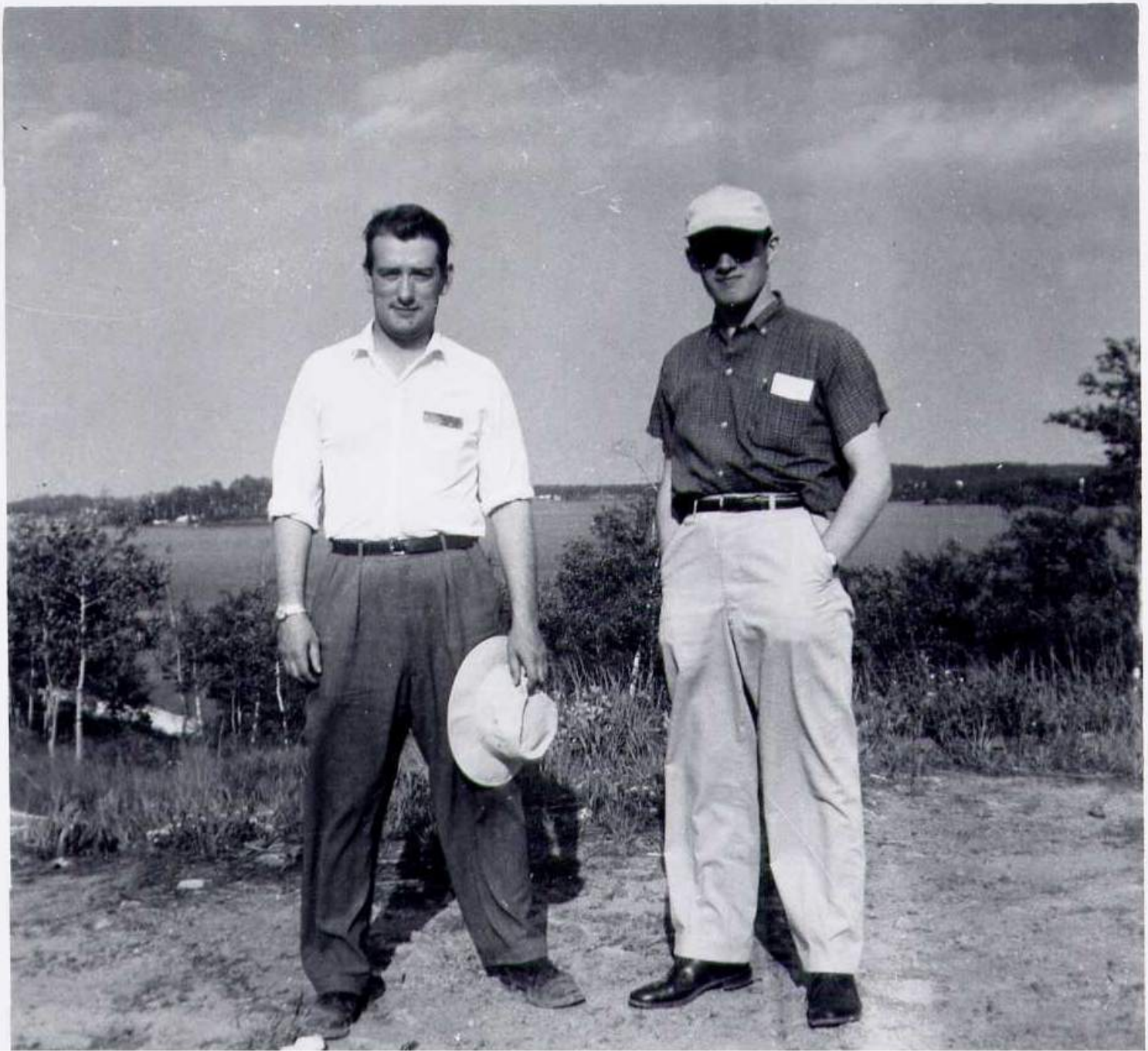


SEL 1956Toronto Mayoralty
Photo: Michel Lambeth



**c. 1956 New recruits
from Great Britain:
Alan Harris (l) with
Ernie Tate and New
Yorker Hannah**

JUN • 58 •



c.1956 Gerry Houle
(l) and Ernie Tate
play leading roles as
movement revives
slowly



Michel Lambeth

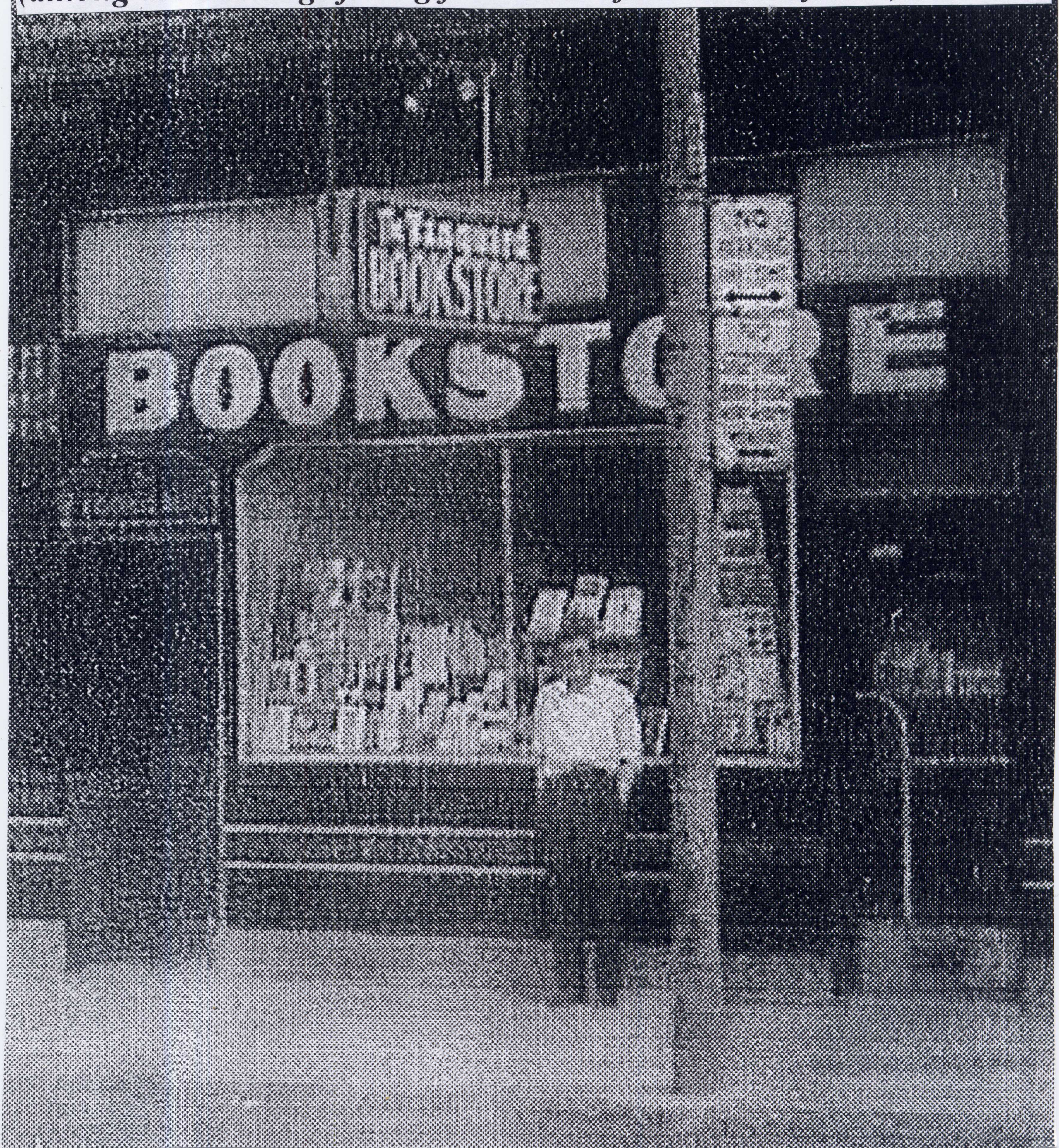
TOP Left to right: Ross Dowson, Virginia (Bunny) Batten and a person whose name I don't remember

BOTTOM Left to right: Ross Dowson, Virginia (Bunny) Batten and Bruce Batton



**c.1957 Ernie Tate out
on an early Vanguard
tour across Ontario
selling subs in the
hinterland**

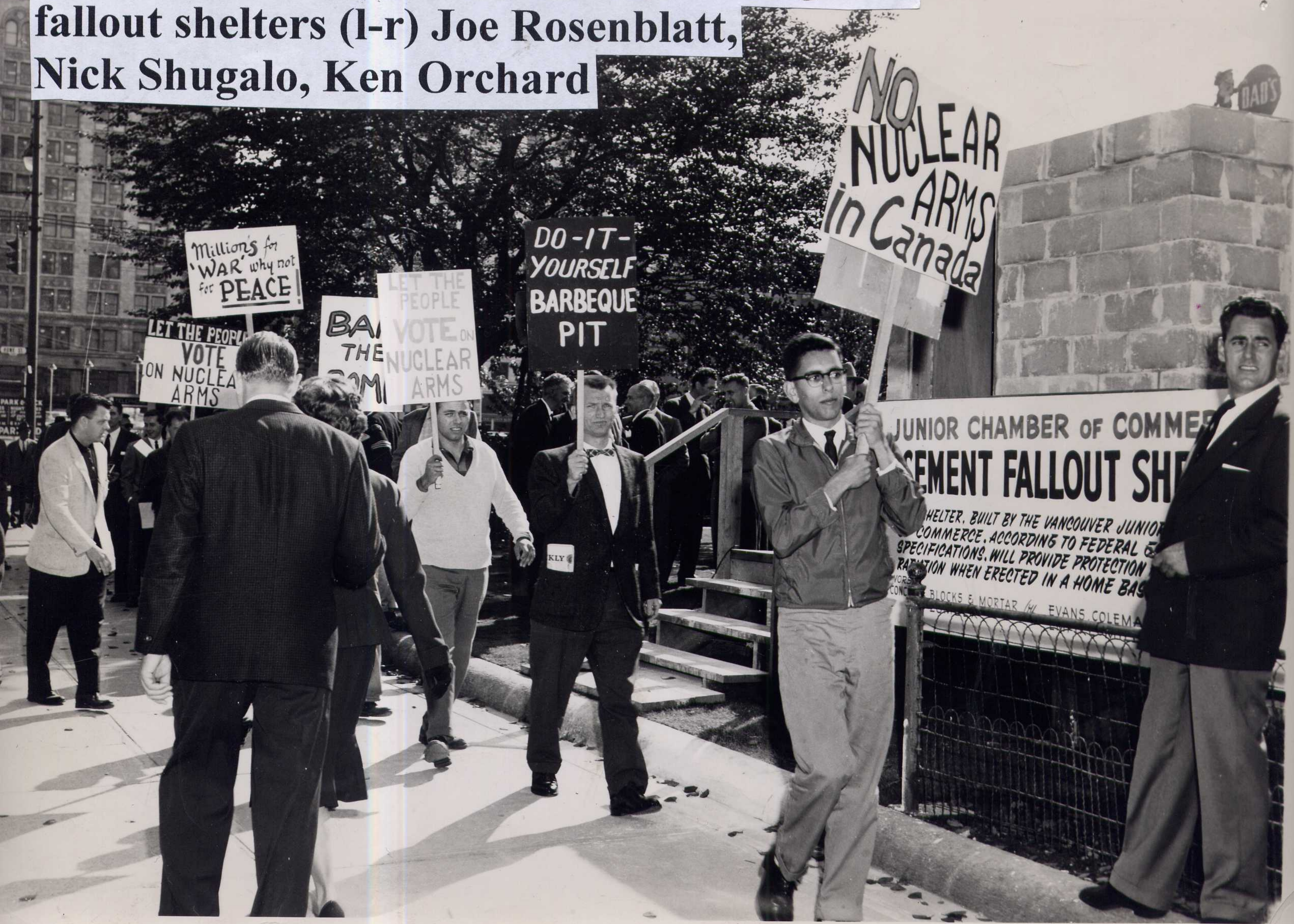
c. 1958 -- Vanguard Bookstore on Queen Street West
(among old buildings facing future site of the new City Hall)



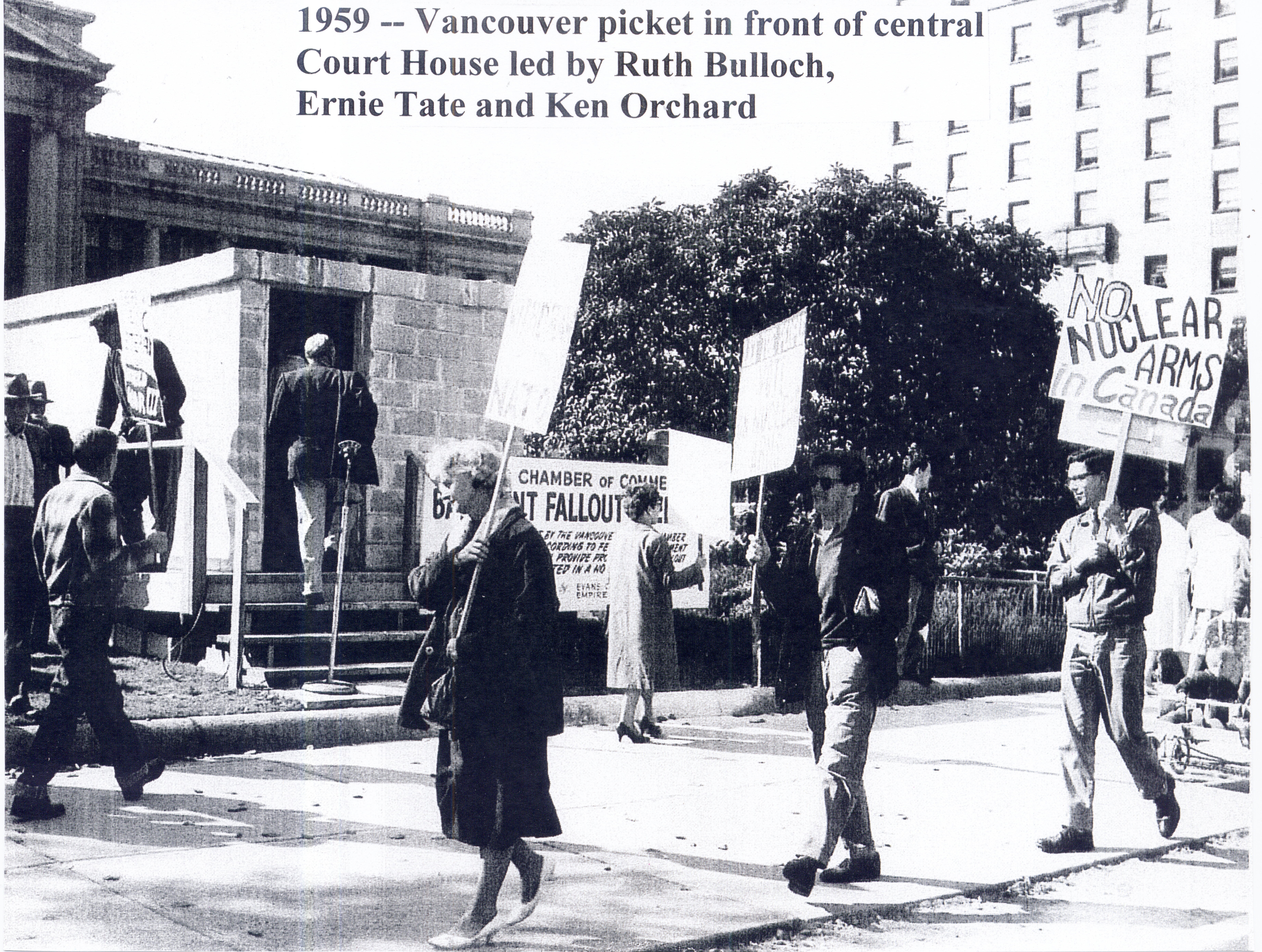


c. 1958 -- Ross's portrait photo -- *time to move out with a bigger bookstore and public meeting hall*

1959 -- Downtown Vancouver picket against fallout shelters (l-r) Joe Rosenblatt, Nick Shugalo, Ken Orchard



1959 -- Vancouver picket in front of central
Court House led by Ruth Bulloch,
Ernie Tate and Ken Orchard

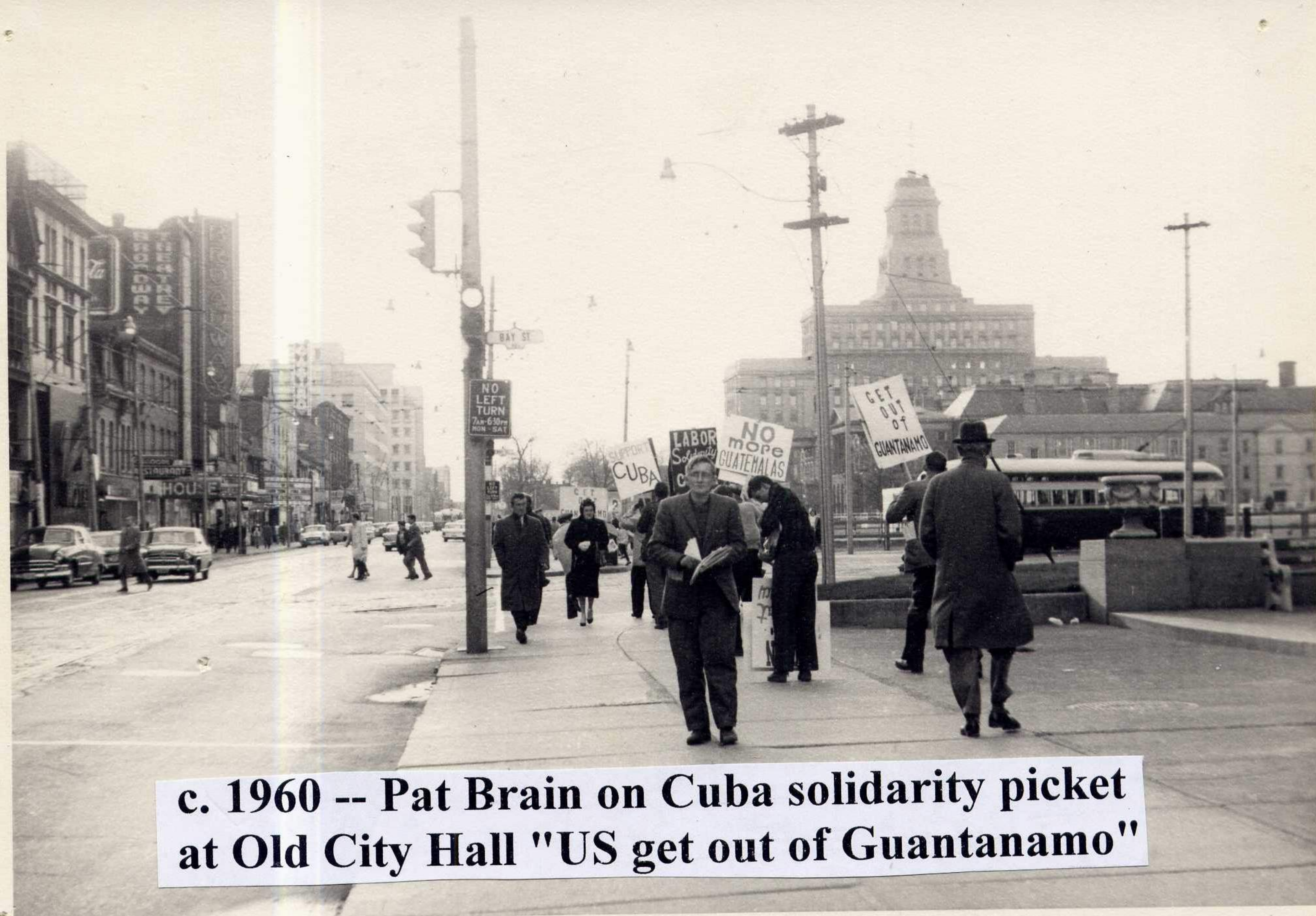




V/
1959-Vancouver bomb-shelter picket--
Ruth Houle(r), Alan Harris (bk, centre)

c. 1960 -- Defending Cuba -- demonstration at US Consulate, Toronto (Joe Rosenblatt holding YSA picket, Cliff Orchard & Pat Brain on right)





**c. 1960 -- Pat Brain on Cuba solidarity picket
at Old City Hall "US get out of Guantnamo"**



c.1960 -- Ross Dowson (43), beginning to bald, as movement grows with worker and youth recruits



c.1960 -- Ross with brother Hugh's and wife Claire's children: (L-R) Jeannette, Eleanor, Anne and Walter



LSA veteran Vern and
and wife Anne, Fair for
Play for Cuba
leaders, c1960

The Need for the LSA & What it Wants

For Peace Policy
Public Ownership



Malcolm Bruce (I) and Ruth Bullock
of Vancouver, Ross Dowson SEL

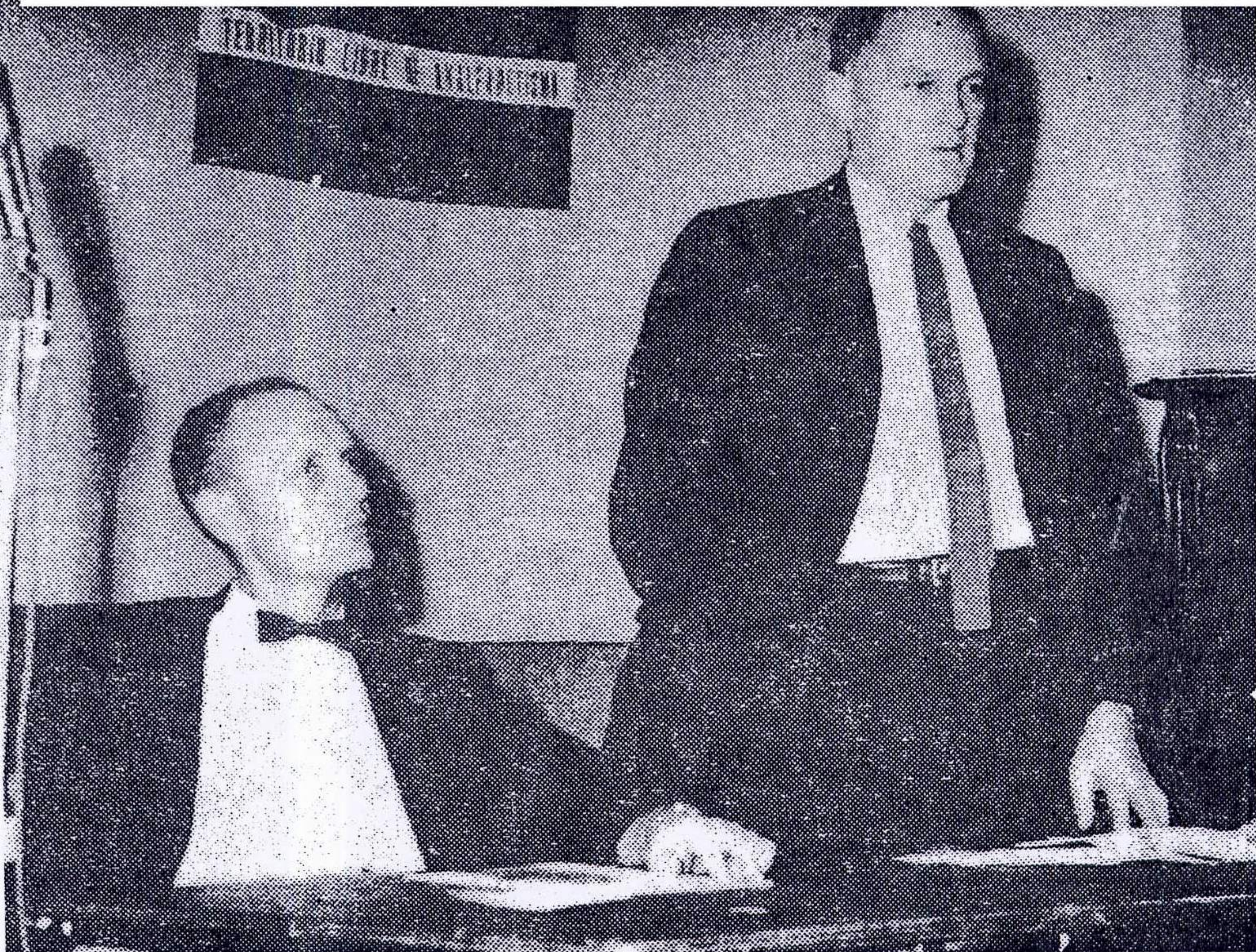
may have looked like the poor had disappeared.

Metro Association
of Unemployed
Workers picket
Unemployment
Insurance Com-
mission Office,
Toronto, March
1961.

York University Librar-
ies, Clara Thomas
Archives and Special
Collections, *Toronto
Telegram* fonds,
ASC19085, Pete Ward,
Toronto Telegram.



Fair Play for Cuba chair Olson



Dave Dellinger, leading U.S. pacifist, on Nov. 3 addressed the largest Fair Play for Cuba banquet ever held in Toronto. He supported Cuban demands that U.S. leave Guantanamo. Most of the 300 attending had a few days earlier demonstrated outside U.S. Consulate in Toronto against Kennedy's imperialist action against Cuba. In New York city, 10,000 rallied outside U.N. building to demand an end to the danger of war over Cuba. Demonstrations in sympathy with Cuba broke out across the world. In Ceylon, dockworkers countered Kennedy by boycotting U.S. ships.

ment scientists! The very
tions under which the test
place were claimed to be
which would render the
undetectable.
for the claim that the tests

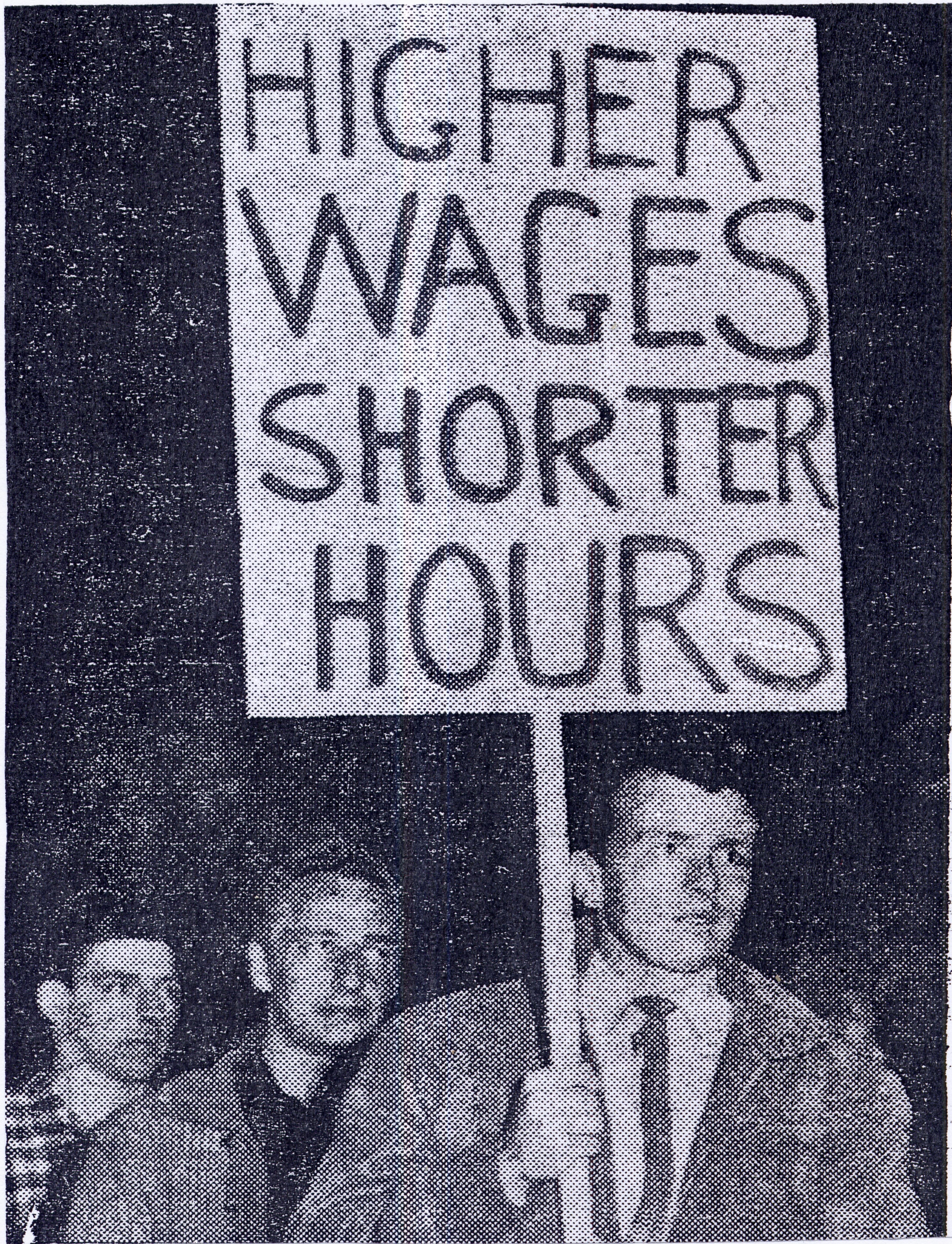
ee Page 2—U.S. EXPOSED)

Vol. 7 (No. 3) (75)

June, 1962

Wainy

Toronto Teamsters Picket



Teamst Tie-Up

JUNE 4—Over 8,000 Ontar
already striking Quebec tru
Hundreds of tractor trailers
which normally roll along Or
to a halt. Even B.C. bound tr

The 2,000 Toronto-based
sters organized in Local
struck in defiance of their le
ship, who had been manoeu
to make a deal with the b
for some 8 months. They
the pin and set up picket
after a stormy 3 hour me
ship meeting, Sunday May

Before the meeting in
borough Arena had off
started militants waved
signs that read: "\$2.50 an h
40 hours a week," "Tea
Local 938 on Strike," "9
Strike—Don't Scab," "40 fo
"We want protection a
piggy-back."

Minutes after 938 Pre
Ken McDougall opened the
ing by announcing that th
ciliation board report wa
only order of busines
launched into a vicious
against a group of rank a



1962-John D. proudly waiting
Fair Play for Cuba banquet--
John(s) Wilson (I) and Riddell

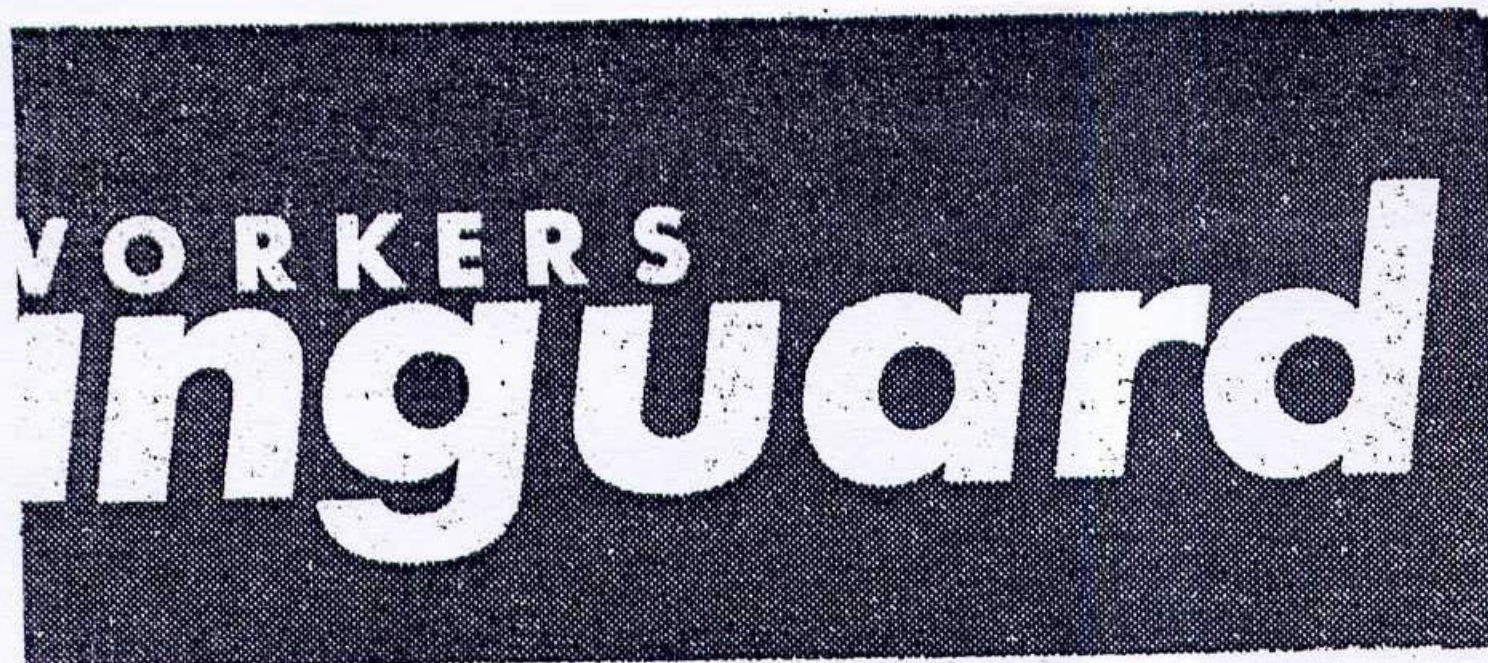


NDP leader T. C. Douglas on the picket line at the Coca Cola plant while in Hamilton. Local 304 of the International Brewery Malt and Soft Drink Workers Union struck the plant on December 4 against wages that are from 13 to 39 cents an hour less than the company pays elsewhere in Ontario. In 1962 Coca Cola collared close to 47 million dollars in profits—almost 10 cents on every sales dollar.

45 Canadian Students Off to Cuba to Get Facts



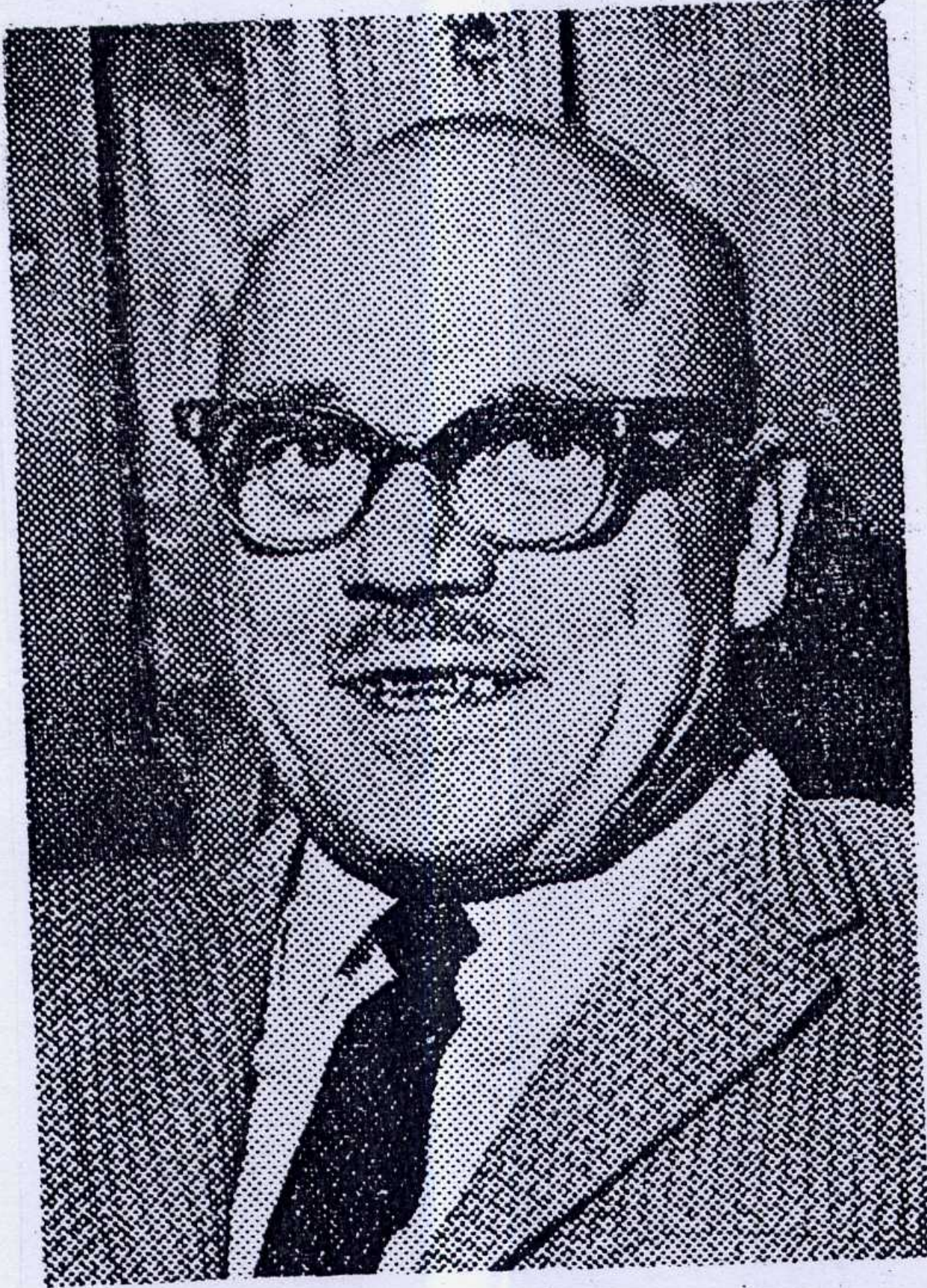
A True Peace Corps





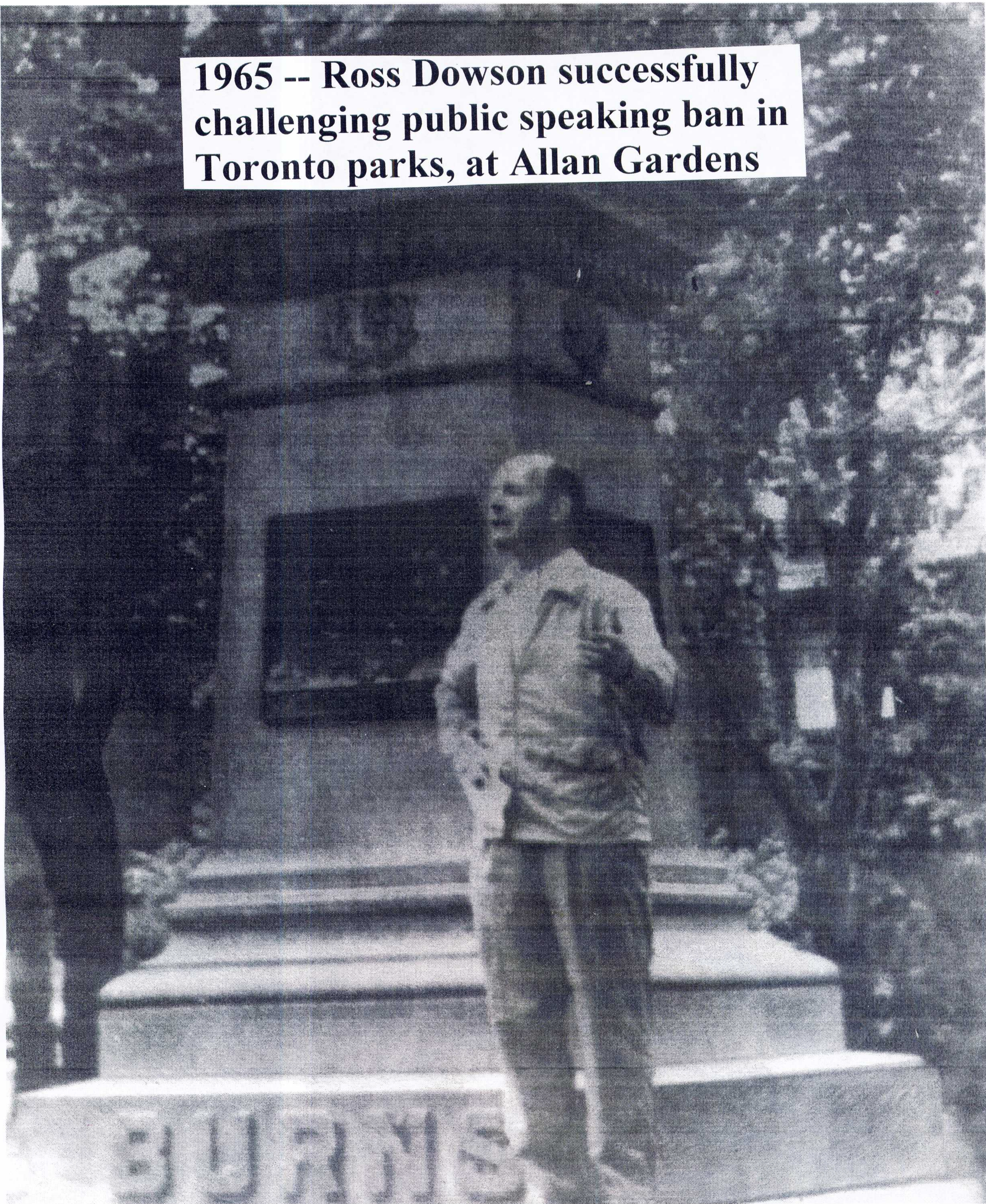
University of Toronto students listening to vice-president of the Socialist Club, Hans Modlich, back up the demand that all foreign troops and mercenaries be withdrawn from the Congo. The crowd of some 200 responded to a leaflet distributed throughout the country's largest campus.

North Vancouver



The above photo of Reg Bullock appeared on his election campaign leaflet headed—For a LABOR MAYOR elect Reg Bullock — Mayor — North Vancouver VOTE SOCIALIST.

**1965 -- Ross Dowson successfully
challenging public speaking ban in
Toronto parks, at Allan Gardens**





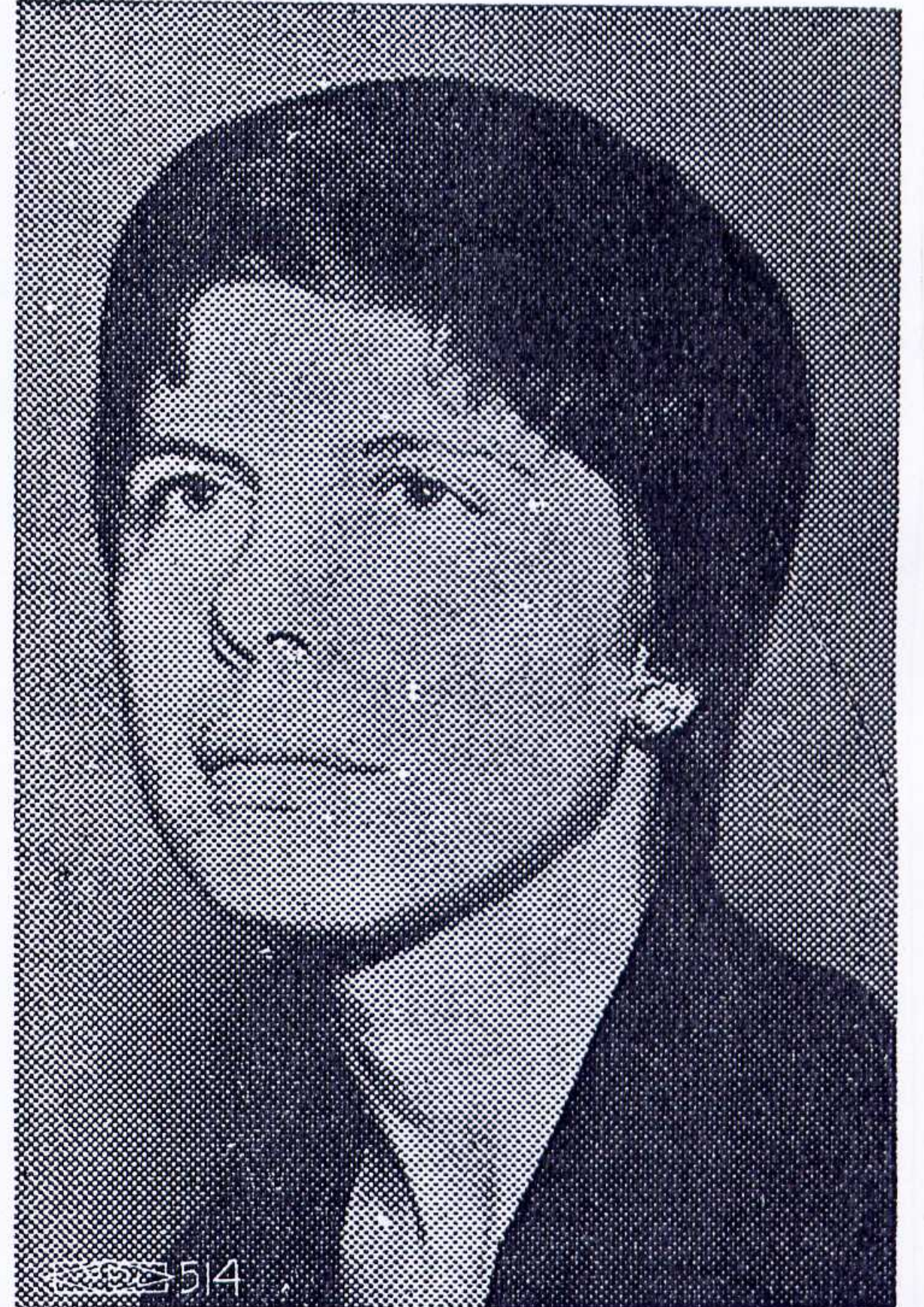
1965 -- Vernel and Helen Olson at U.S. Consulate leading Fair Play protest against Cuba blockade



Pat Mitchell with future hubby Peter Schulz at work in new LSO-basement HQ at 66 rue Guilbult in Montreal -c.1965

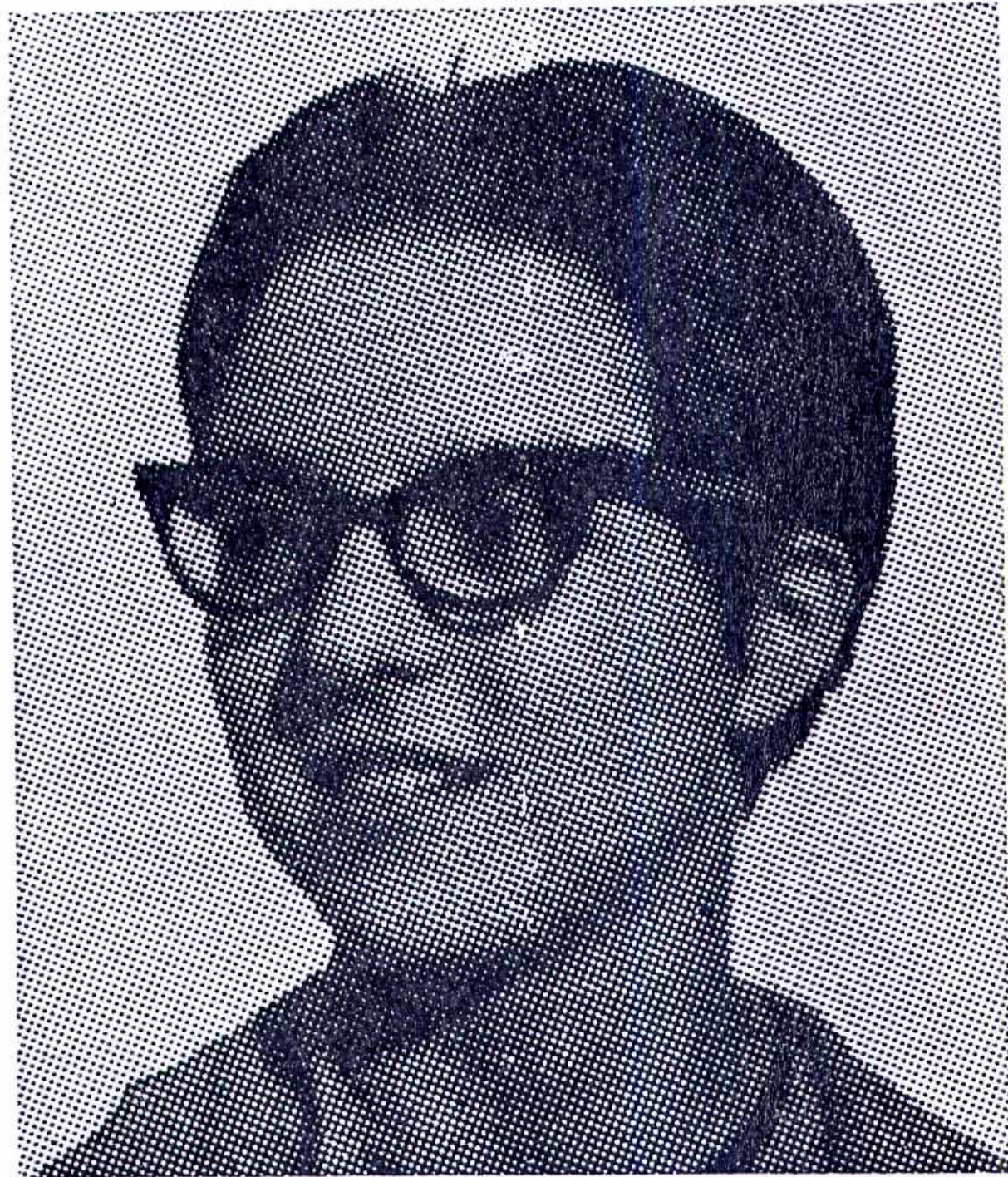
rope Que. Police, Atl. Rally Demand

LSO ORGANIZER



PAT MITCHELL

MAYORALTY CANDIDATE



JEAN RANDS

VANCOUVER—For trade unionists, for NDP supporters, and particularly for those who are socialist, this year's Vancouver civic election should prove the most inspiring in years.

Twenty-one year old Jean Rands



**Anti-Vietnam War
1966 demonstration
gathering at
Vancouver City Hall**

Vote LABOUR



*1967 -- Toronto LSA challenges NDP abstention
--agree to accept new Tory minister by acclamation*

Nov. 6 Colchester-Hants

**ROSS
DOWSON**

Sponsored by the League for Socialist Action, 1 Cumberland St., Toronto



The agony of the children in southern Vietnam, their flesh seared by napalm and torn by anti-personnel bombs dropped by U.S. planes is, graphically recorded in the April 1 mass circulation Star Weekly. Here the napalm bomb wounds of Thai-Binh-Dan, of Long-An province in the north, are being examined by Toronto Dr. Gustavo Tolentino. The 17-year-old boy's village was bombed by U.S. planes over a year ago. Dr. Tolentino was a member of the second team of investigators sent into northern Vietnam over January - February by the International War Crimes Tribunal.

WORKER
Vang



1967-LSO-Montreal
New Organizer Art
Young (I), Peter
Schulz-66 Guilbault



FRENCH YOUTH LEADER. Jean-Pierre Dubé, right, confers with Michel Mill at Montreal meeting.

MONTREAL — The formation of a Quebec committee to aid the defense of the French student leaders indicted by the de Gaulle regime was announced here Aug. 25 at an enthusiastic meeting in the Moose Hall.

THE WORKERS
VANGUARD



JOAN NEWBIGGING, is
Vancouver organizer of the
League for Socialist Action.



Trotskyism and the NDP

Newly elected Chair LSA
John Riddell leads antiwar
contingent --an LSA priority

**advance into the '70s with
a labor-socialist civic govt**



head the slate with

RIDDELL for mayor

**vote the 16 NDP
alderman candidates
& top the poll with**

**STONE
NEWBIGGING
FIDLER**

**ward 2
ward 5
ward 7**

back them up on the **BOARD OF EDUCATION** *with*

**KOPYTO
LOMAS
CAMPANA
WOLFSON**

**ward 2.
ward 3**

**YOUNG
HENDERSON
KIRZNER
OLSON**

**ward 5
ward 7
ward 8**

**League for Socialist Action Young Socialists 1 Cumberland St. Toronto
922-6665 921-1637 363-9618**



RICHARD FIDLER, Toronto aldermanic candidate.



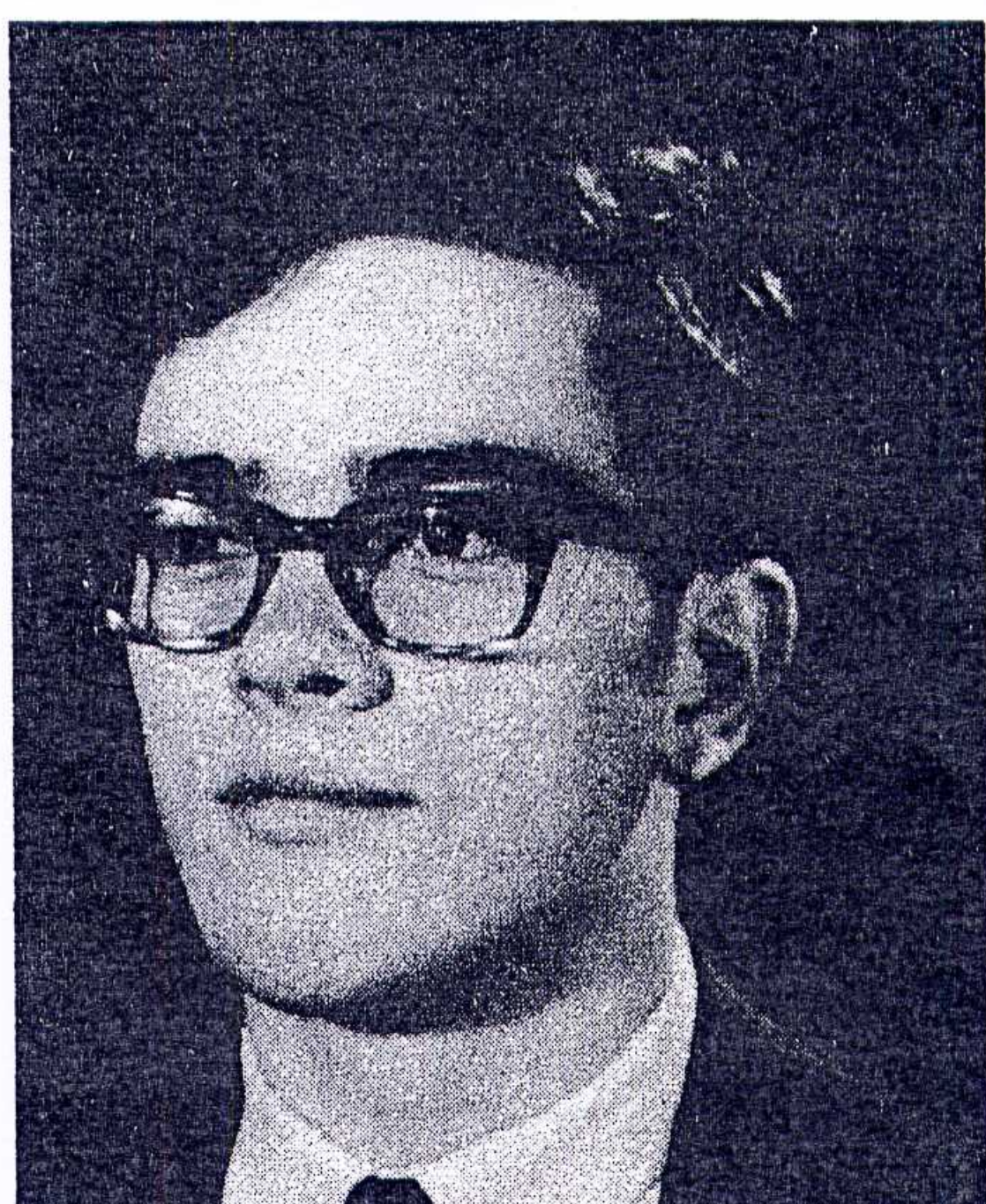
JACQUIE HENDERSON, Ward 7



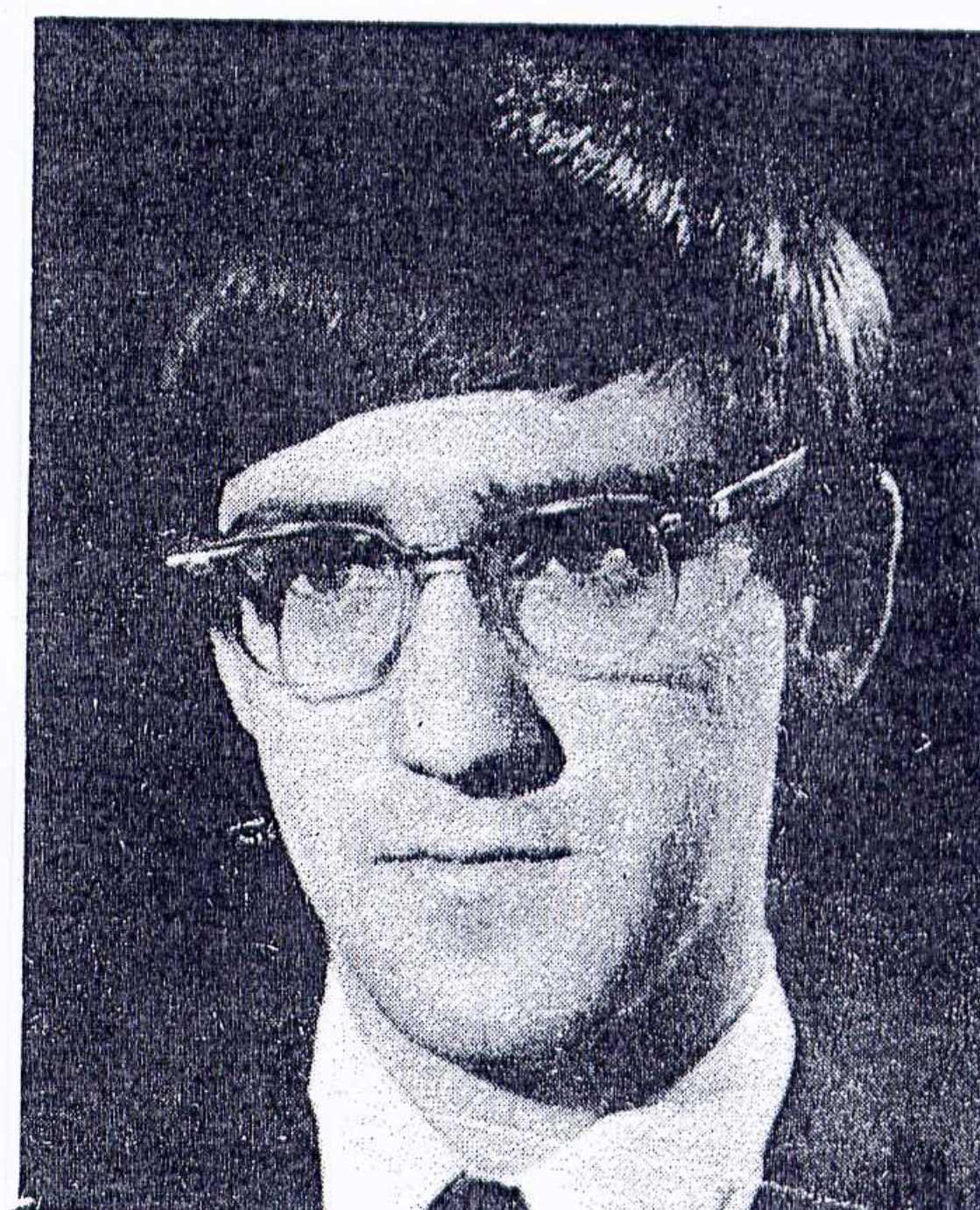
KEN WOLFSON, Ward 3



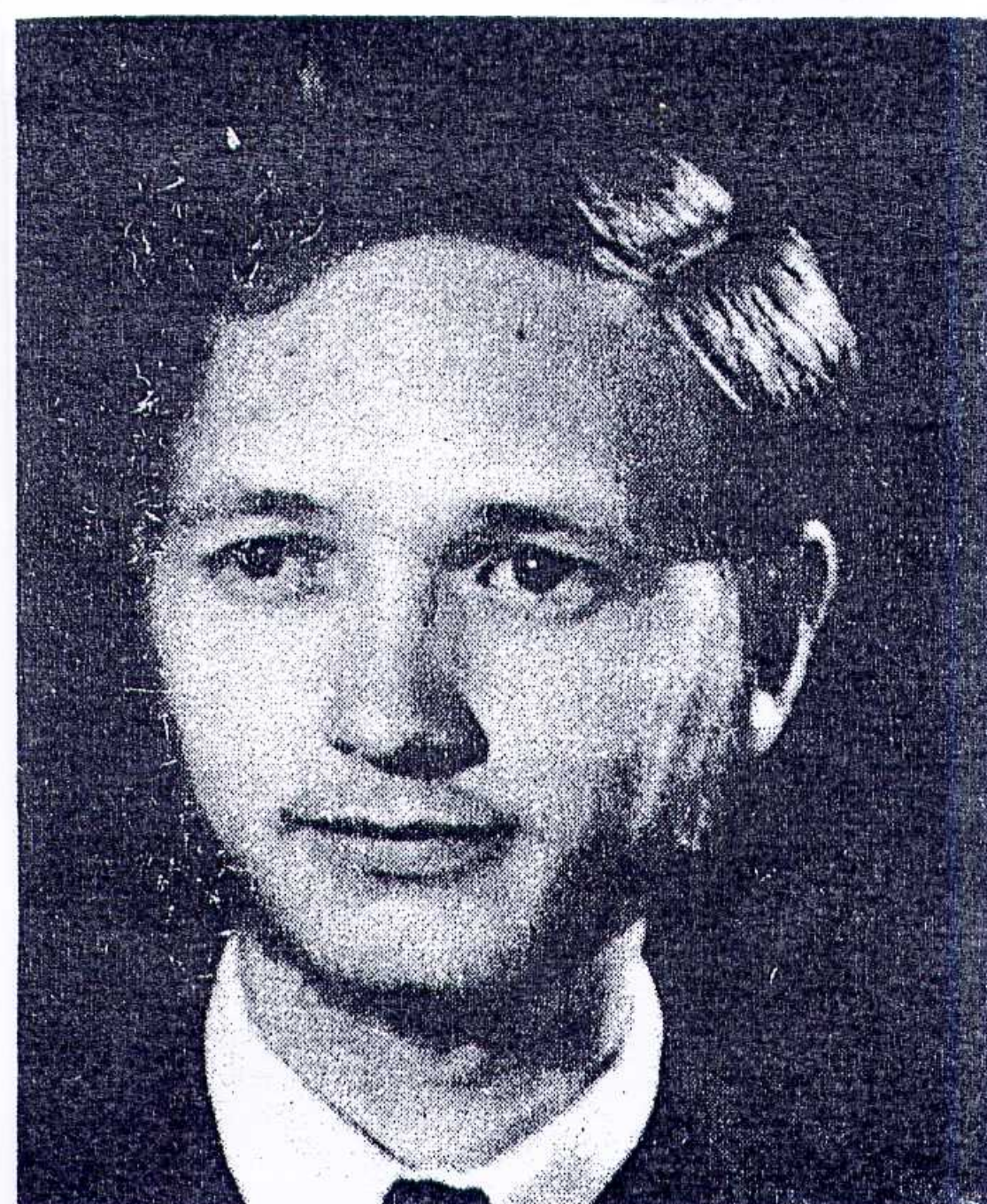
ELLIE KIRZNER, Ward 8



DENNIS LOMAS, Ward 2



JOE YOUNG, Ward 5



DAVID OLSON, Ward 8



HARRY KOPYTO, Ward 2

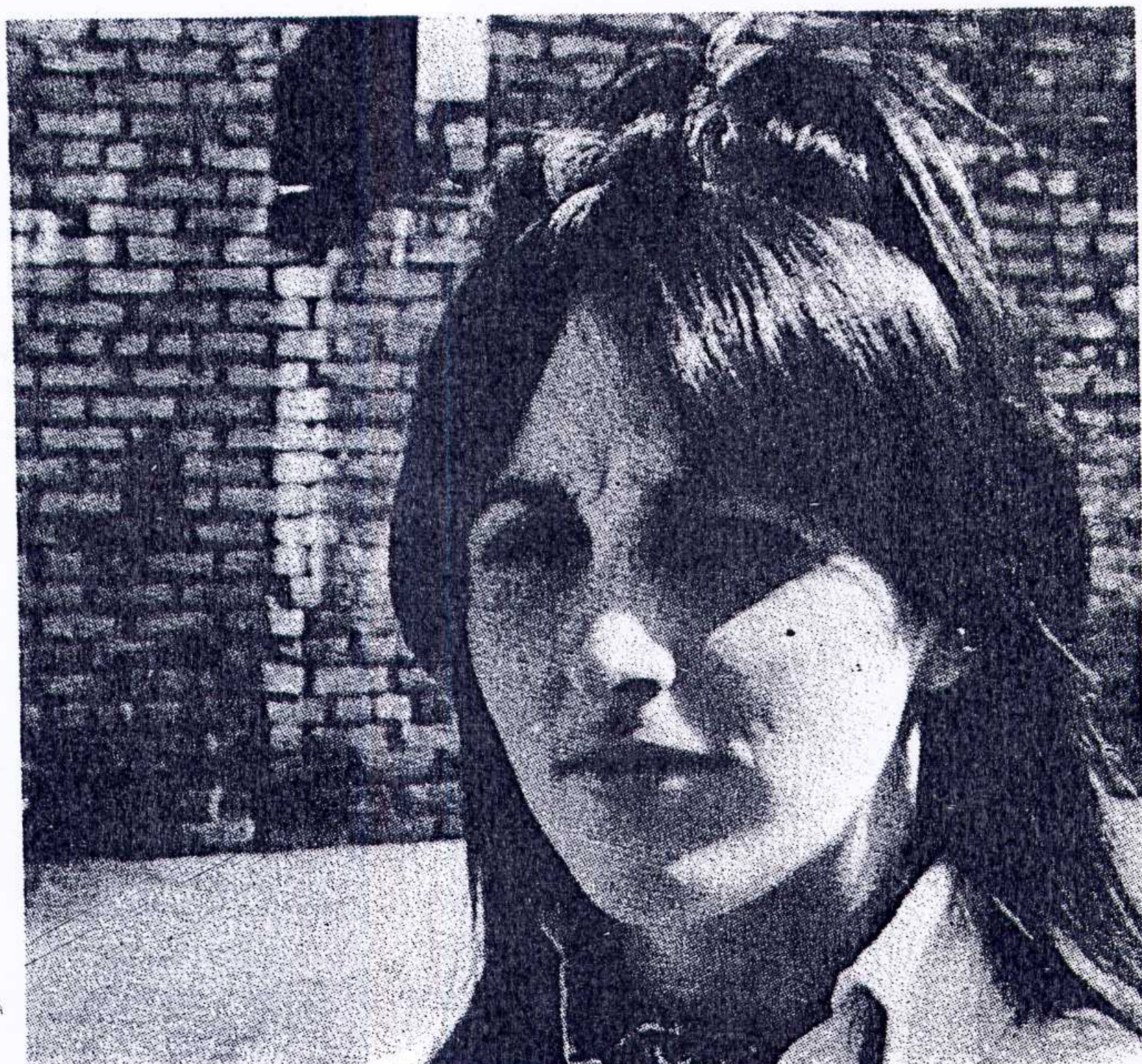


JOAN CAMPANA, Ward 3

A new generation of Board of Education Trustees suddenly appears

Le 29 avril dans Dorion

VOTONS Manon Léger



- **Un gouvernement des travailleurs**
- **Des emplois pour tous**
- **Un Québec unilingue français**

Candidate de la Ligue Socialiste Ouvrière
226 est, Ste-Catherine, 861-3018

LSO campaign poster

labor **Challenge**

April 20, 1970/ 3



Photo by White

Manon Leger

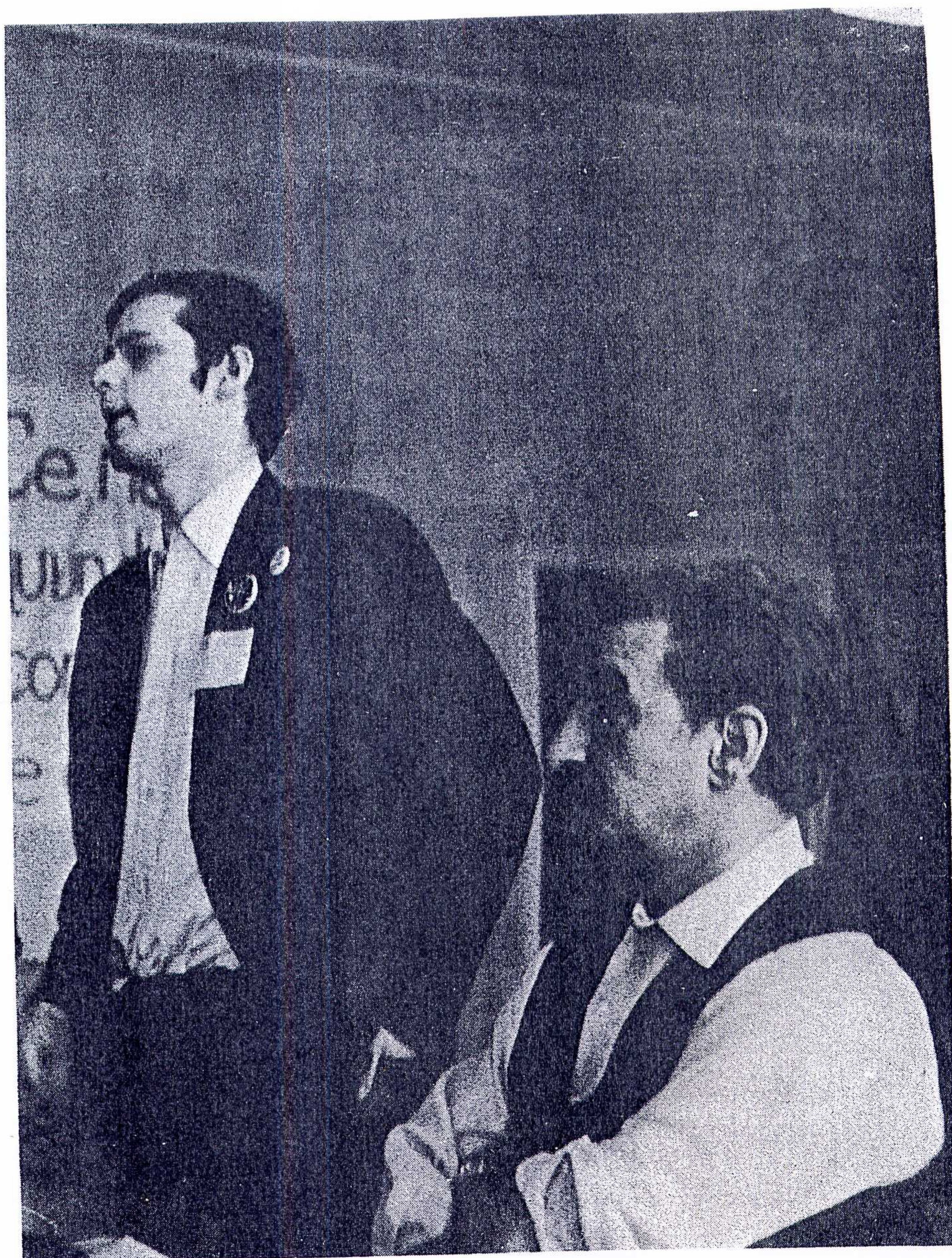
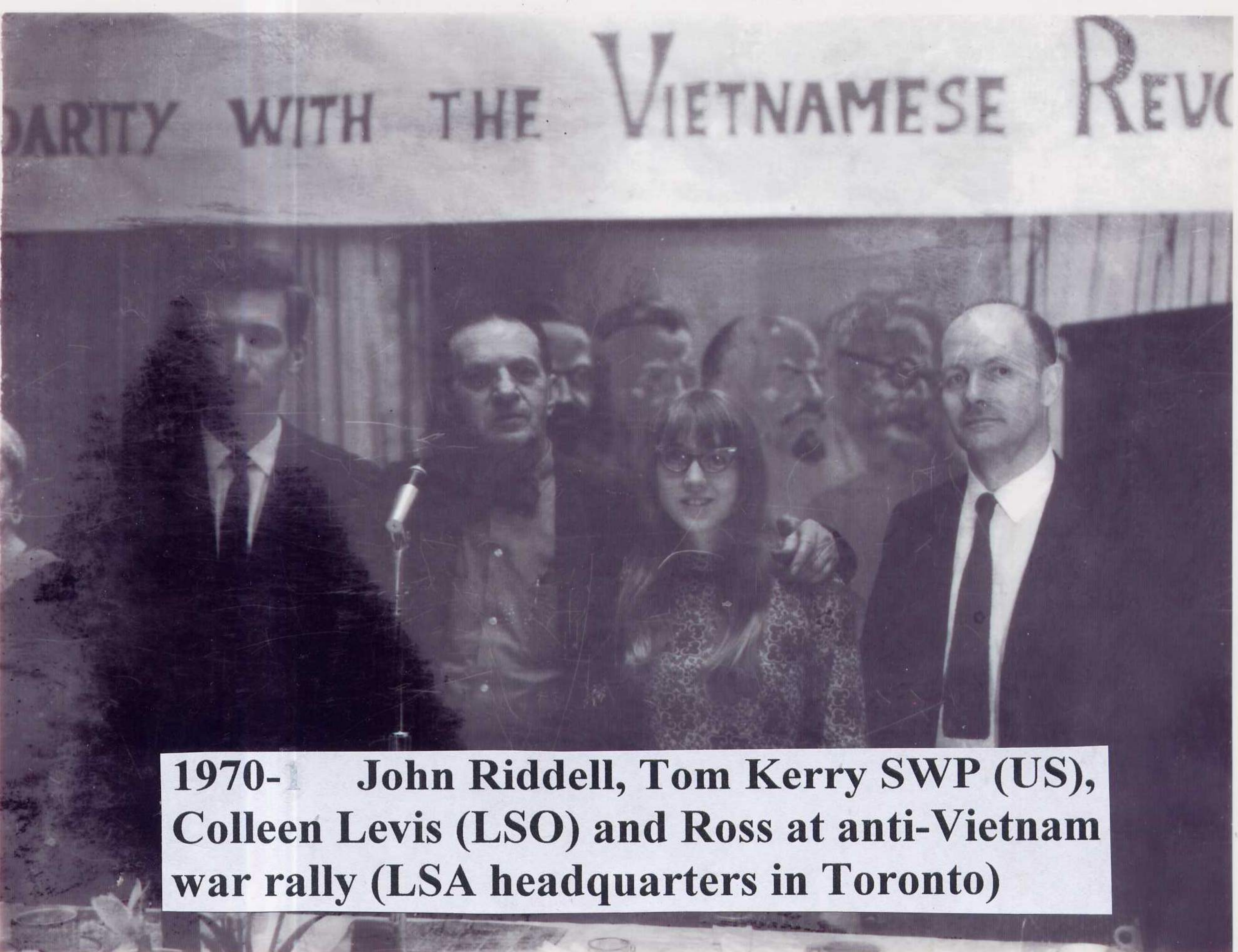


photo by Mintz

Art Young, jailed under the War Measures Act, was speaker at socialist youth conference last year. Seated beside him is Michel Chartrand, jailed trade union leader.

6/ Labor Challenge/ November 9, 1970



1970-1 John Riddell, Tom Kerry SWP (US), Colleen Levis (LSO) and Ross at anti-Vietnam war rally (LSA headquarters in Toronto)



Lois Bedard (front right) and Anne Lagace-Dowson on Working Women picket



**PIONEER CANADIAN
REVOLUTIONIST. Max Arm-
strong.** 1970 -- dies



photo by Jeff White

MASS RALLY FOR A FRENCH QUEBEC. The Workers League calls mass actions for French language rights "middle class". The speaker at Oct. 16 rally (above) is Alain Beiner of

the Ligue des Jeunes Socialistes, a leading organizer of the action.



Photo by MacInnis

PRAISES ANTIWAR MOVEMENT.
Huyn Van Ba of Vietnam's PRG
speaks to Toronto meeting. With him
is Hon Ca and George Addison of
Vietnam Mobilization Committee.

labor
Challenge



photo by WI

Joan Newbigging

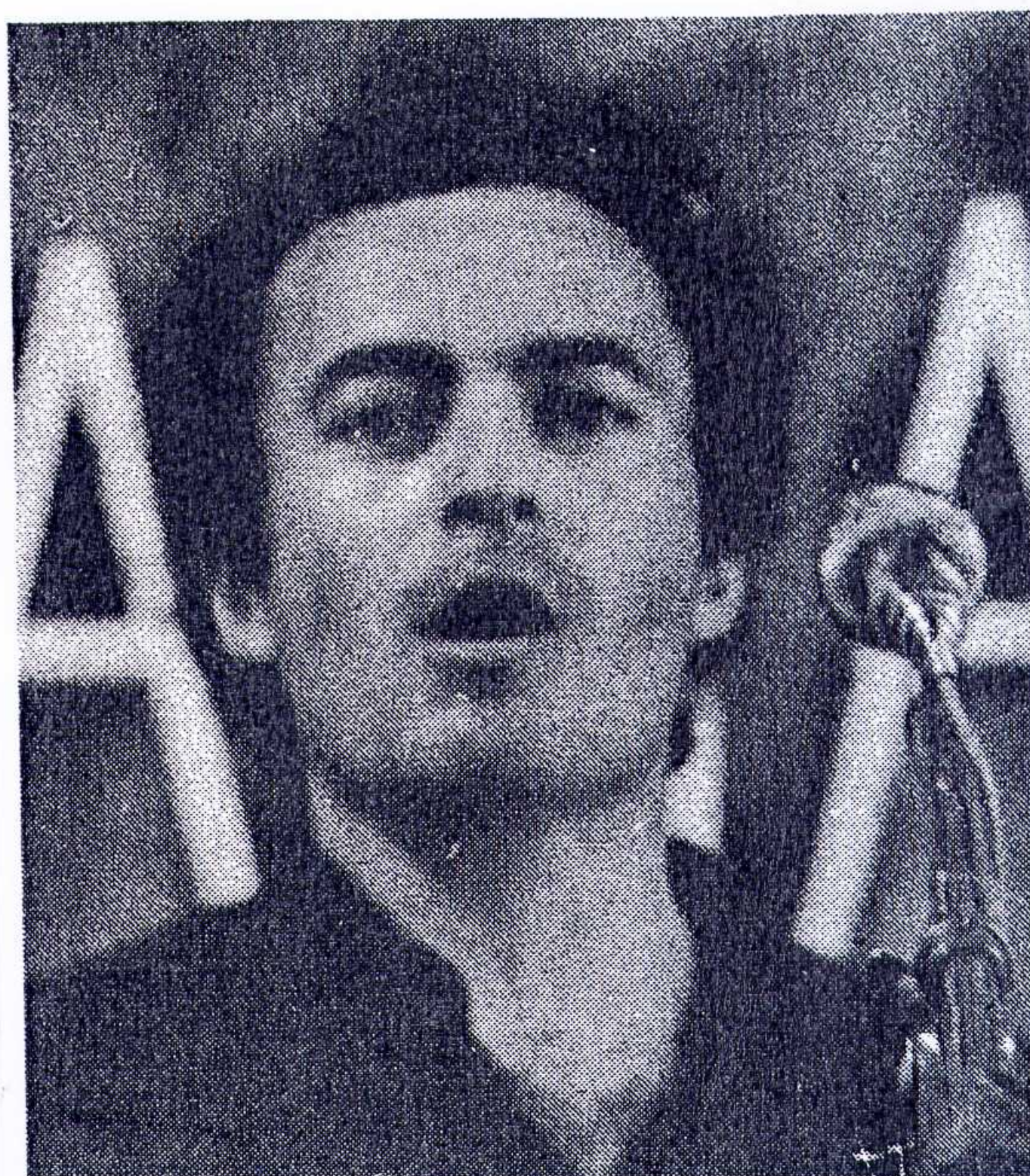
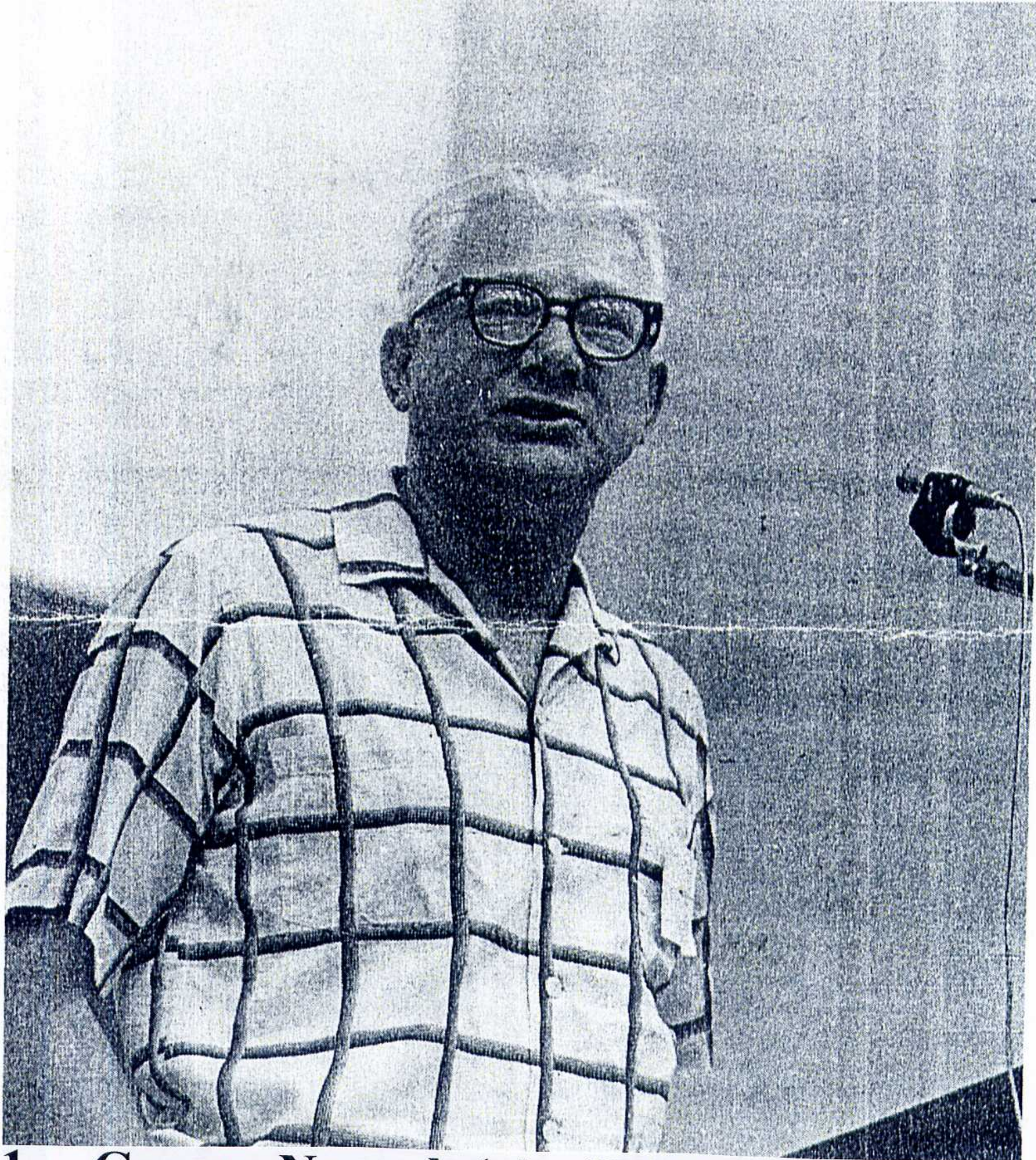


Photo by MacInnis

John Steele



ALAIN BEINER. Ligue Socialiste Ouvriere candidate addresses rally for Quebec independence July 1, 1971.



**1971 -- George Novack (aka William F. Warde)
principal Marxist theoretician of the SWP (USA),
speaking at the LSA Waterloo conference**





Ross Dawson

Agitator, teacher, historian -the role of the socialist press



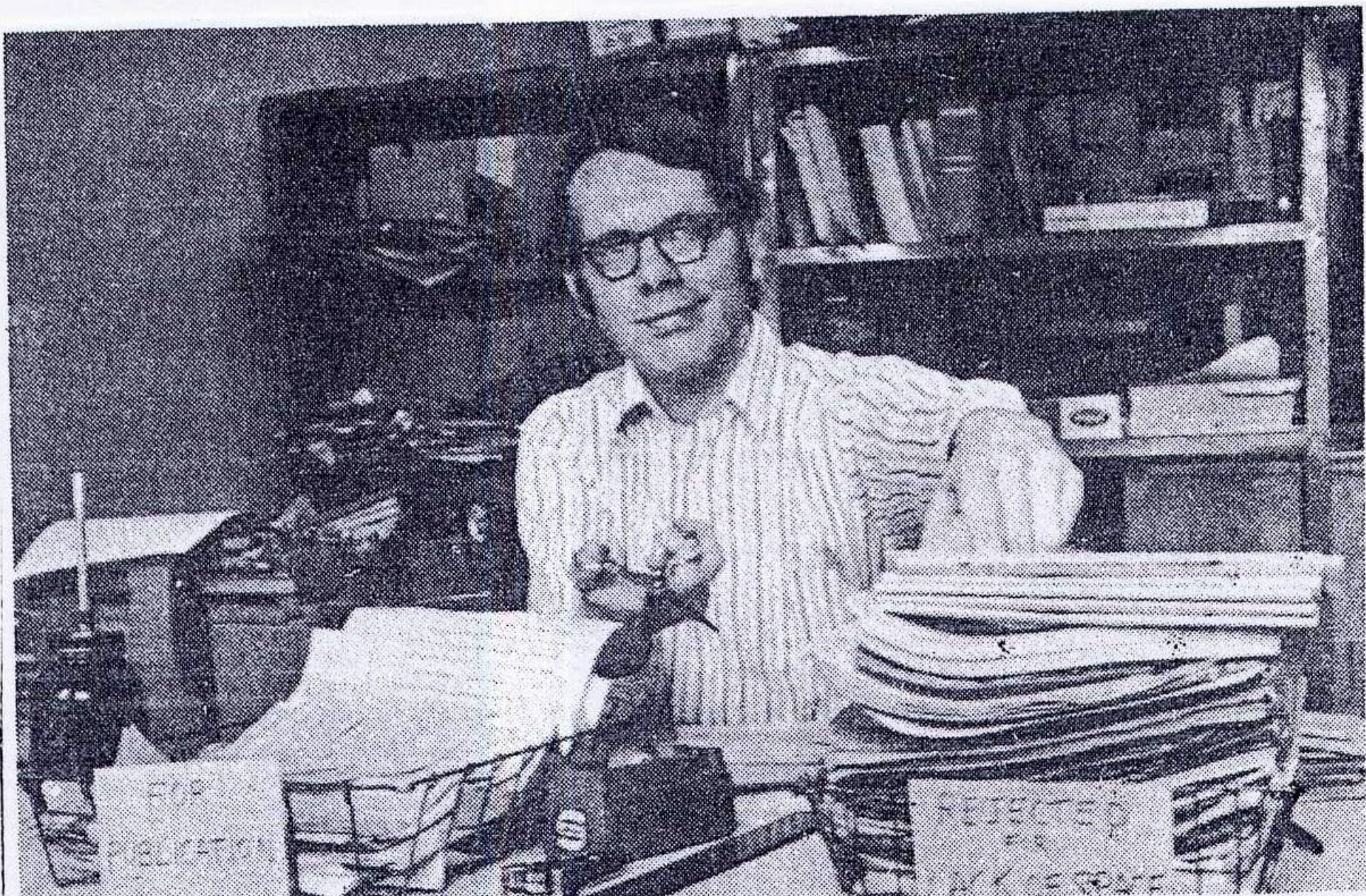
WHAT'S SHE DOING HERE? Toronto Star Forum Nov. 22 was supposed to be restricted to big business mayoralty candidates Rotenberg, Crombie and O'Donohue, but socialist candidate

Jacquie Henderson won overwhelming audience support for her right to speak. After speaking, to the chagrin of the other candidates, she also took full part in the question period.



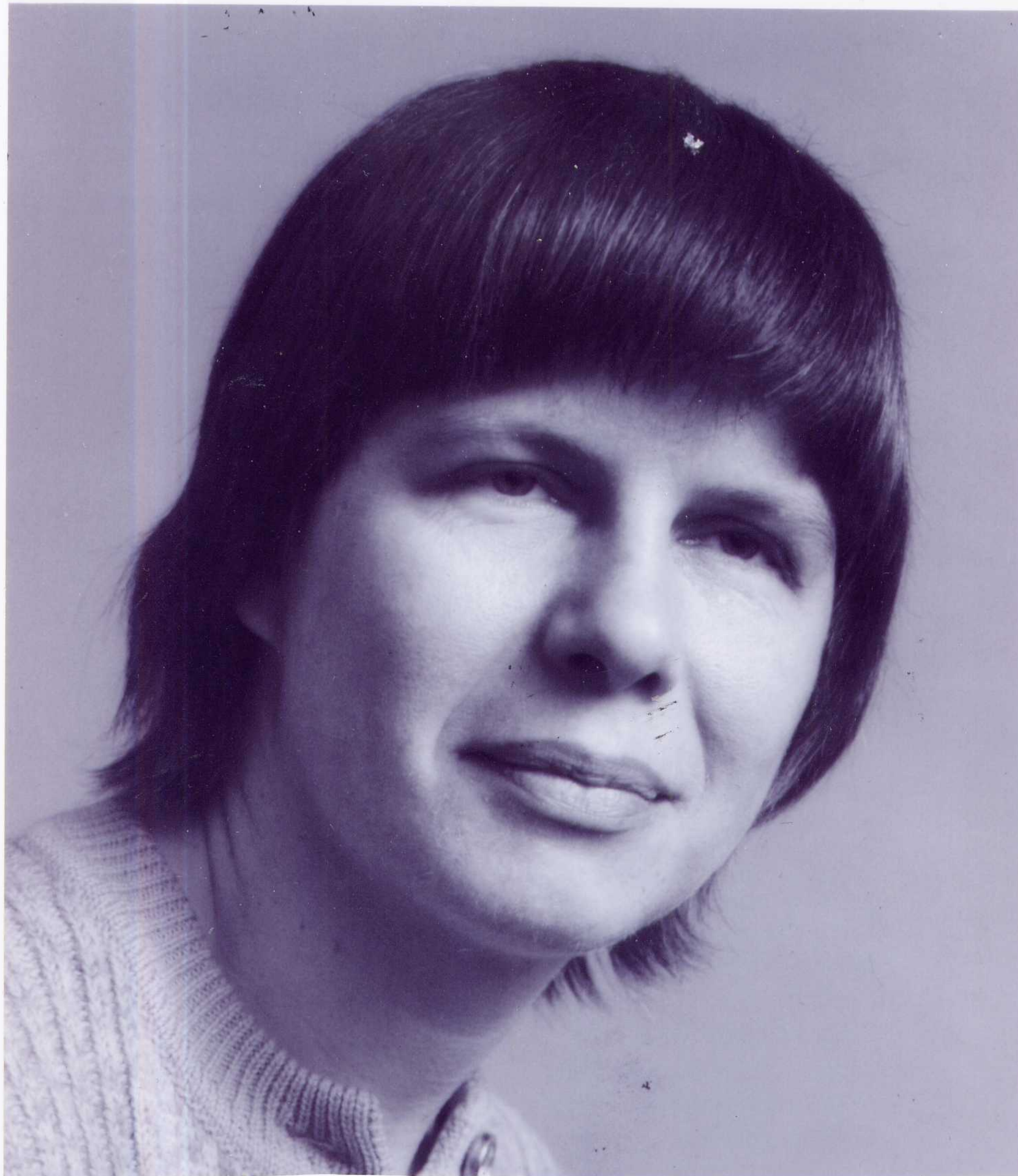
Jacquie Henderson

New editor



**We're cramped
for space. Help
us expand to a
12-page paper.**

Labor Challenge, March 13, 1972



1972 -- Long-time leading militant Pat Mitchell (Schulz) active in SEL, LSA and Forward Group



**1972 -- Ernest Mandel, internationally
-known Marxist theoretician and FI leader,
speaking on tour in Canada**

Freedom of press won in Ottawa Mall

OTTAWA — After a long campaign spearheaded by the Young Socialists (YS) and the League for Socialist Action (LSA) here, the right to sell newspapers on the downtown Sparks St. Mall has been won.

At a meeting June 4, City Council adopted a report stating that the Mall administrators had exceeded

their powers in banning paper sales.

Ever since the Mall was opened several years ago, sellers of underground and radical newspapers have been harassed by the police, ostensibly because they had not first obtained a "business permit" from the Mall Authority, made up of Sparks St. businessmen. The undemocratic regulations of the Mall Authority have been the target of a years-long campaign by socialists, the antiwar movement and the underground press.

Last summer, Joe Young, then organizer of the Ottawa YS, was arrested for selling the newspapers Young Socialist and Labor Challenge on the Mall. He was subsequently convicted and served a brief jail sentence in February.

Young's jailing, and defense activities organized by the Committee for Freedom of the Press, resulted in City Council's appointment of a special committee to investigate the powers of the Mall Authority.

The YS and the LSA held a picket line outside City Council chambers on June 4, selling seven copies of Young Socialist and Labor Challenge to council members. The favorable decision of City Council and the picket line received front page coverage in the Ottawa Citizen, Ottawa's leading daily.



Joe Young



photo by Arnie Mintz

AFTER SPLITTING FROM NDP. James Laxer and Melville Watkins announce formation of "Movement for an Independent and Socialist Canada" after Waffle Conference in Delaware, Ontario.



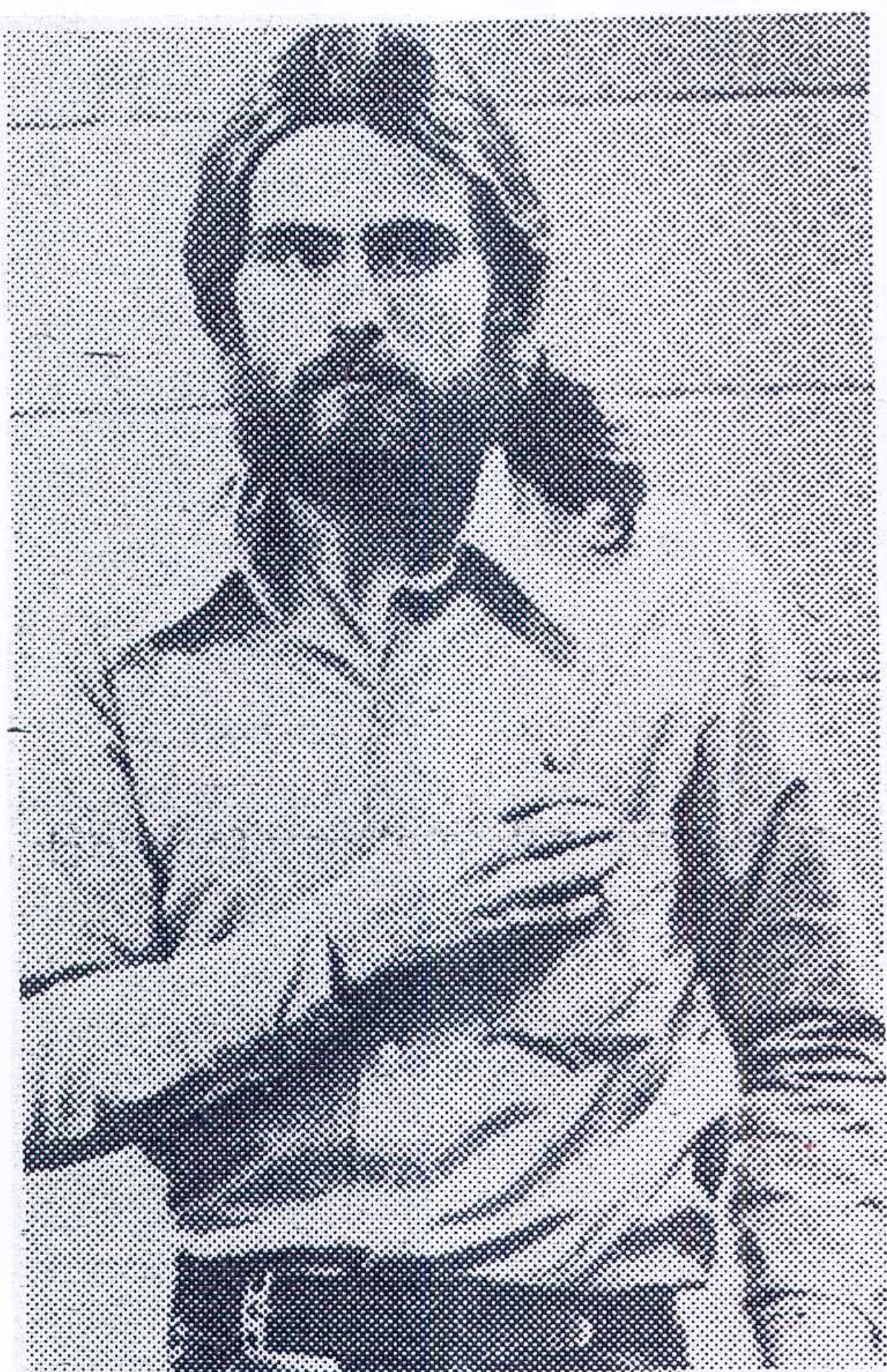
1974-1 Ross on (short)
sabbatical canoe trip
after LSA split, mulling
the future course of
action



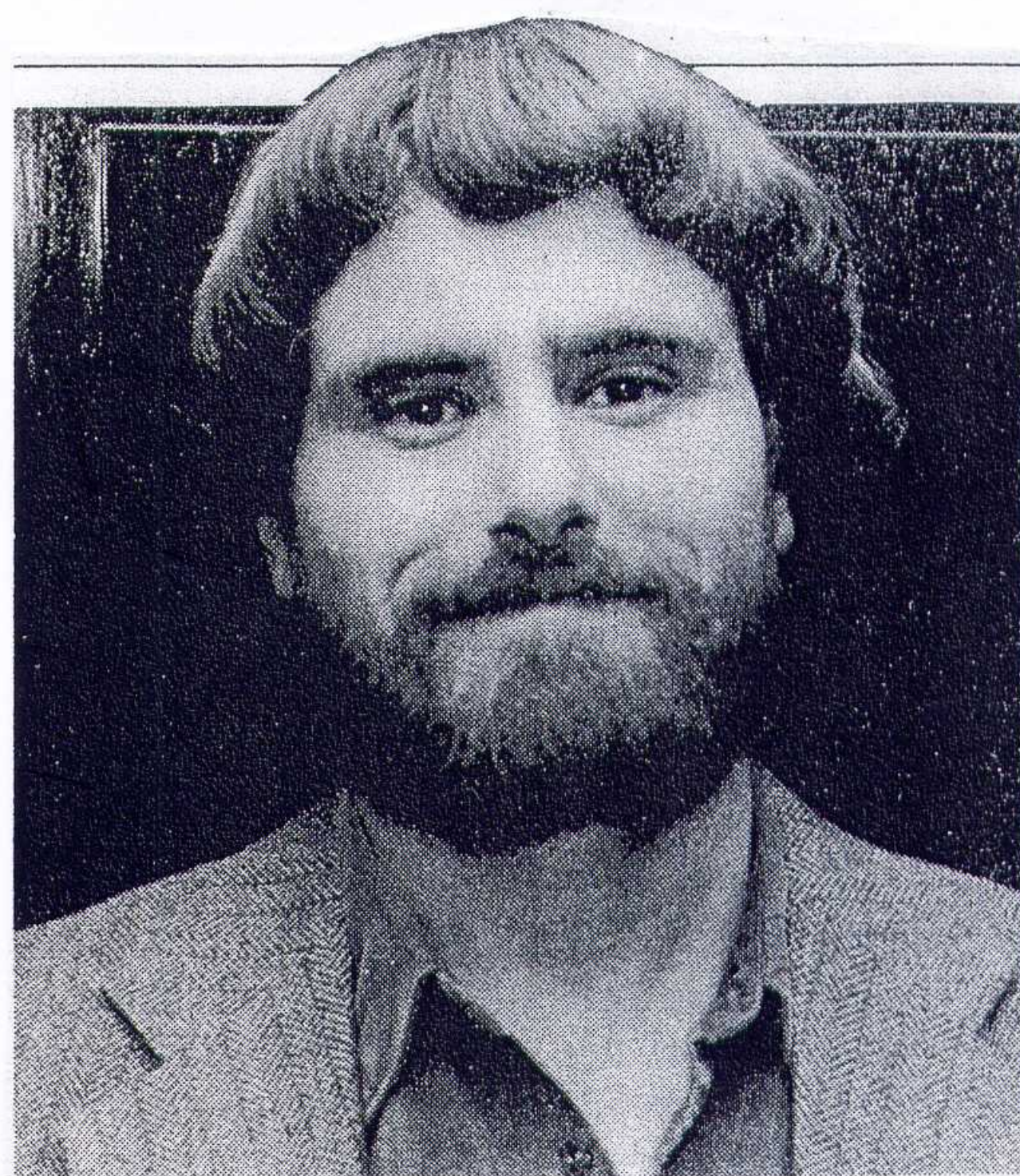
1974 -- Camarade Jean-Marie Bédard
President International Woodworkers Regional Council
in Quebec, addressing a local membership meeting



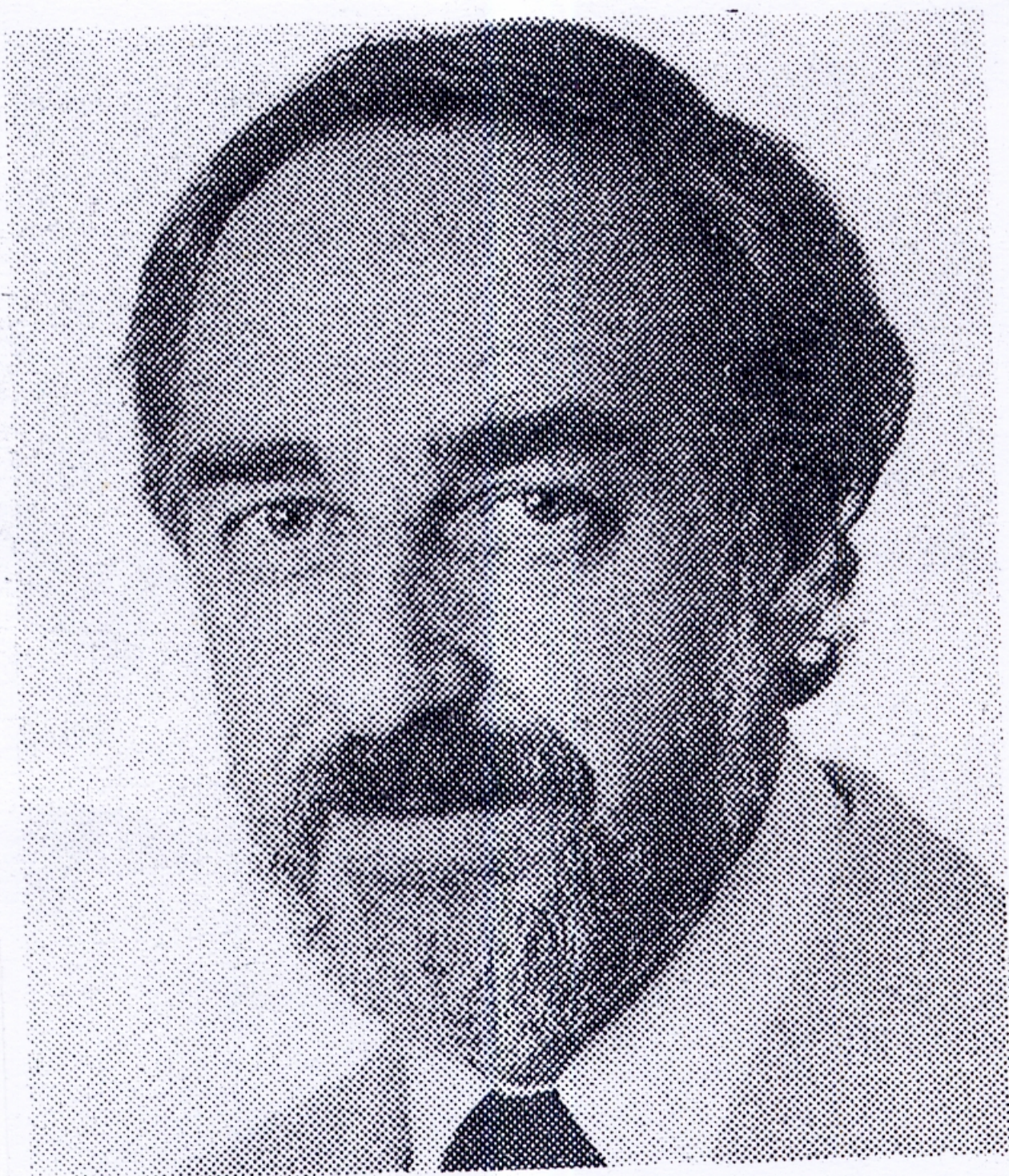
**Women's Day march, May 1975 -- Toronto
Amnesty for Morgentaler (free choice on abortion)**



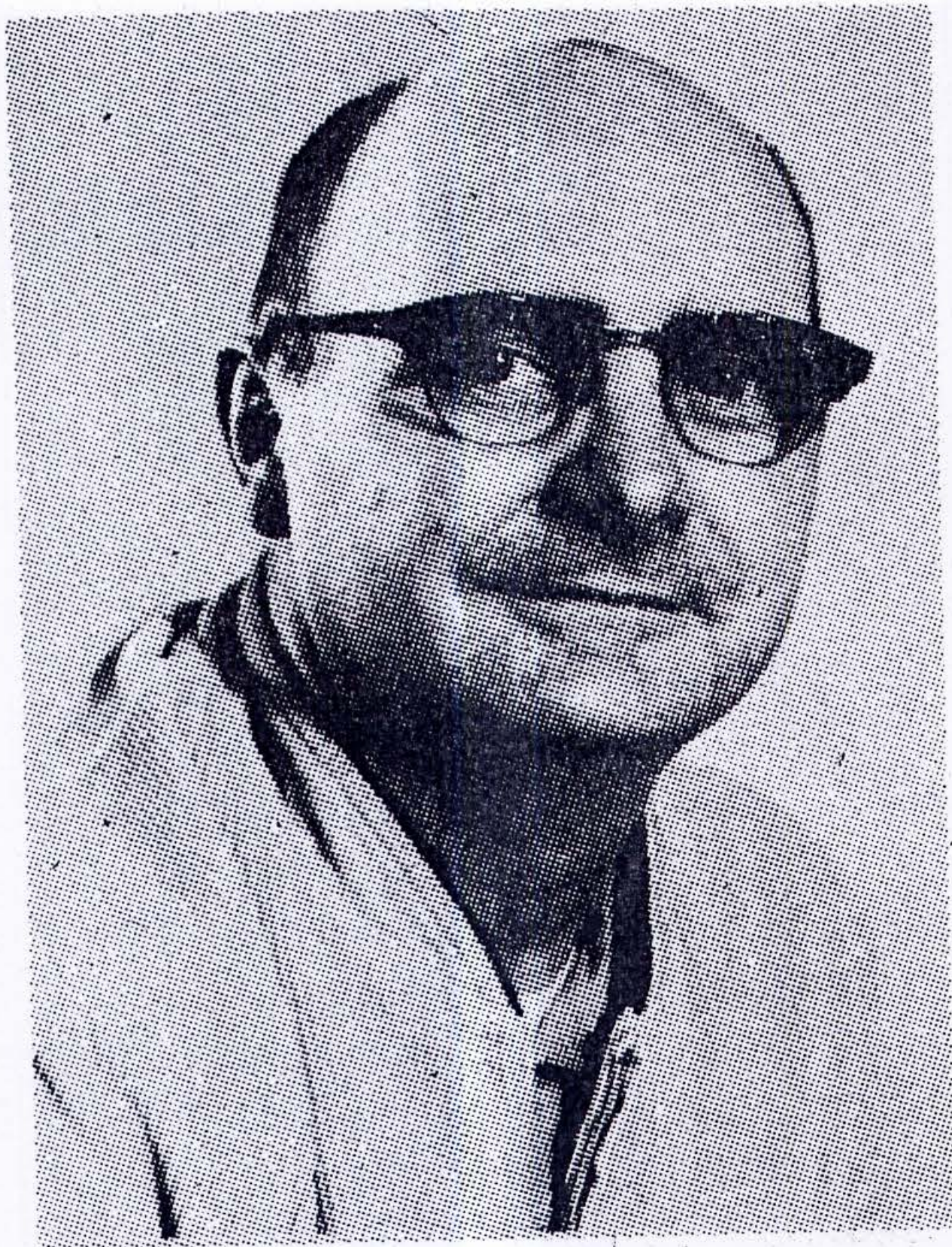
Dale Ritch, President 75/76, CYSF.



1983-Dale Ritch NDP nomination campaign



1975 Harry Paine
Board of Ed candidate
Defence Dowson
RCMP campaign



Hugh Dowson
Feb. 12, 1922—Feb. 13, 1975

Socialist union militant Lost too early



**1980 -- Ross with Polish Solidarnosc
solidarity contingent, Labor Day Parade
(Toronto--with Steinbok daughter & Marc Kopyto, below)**



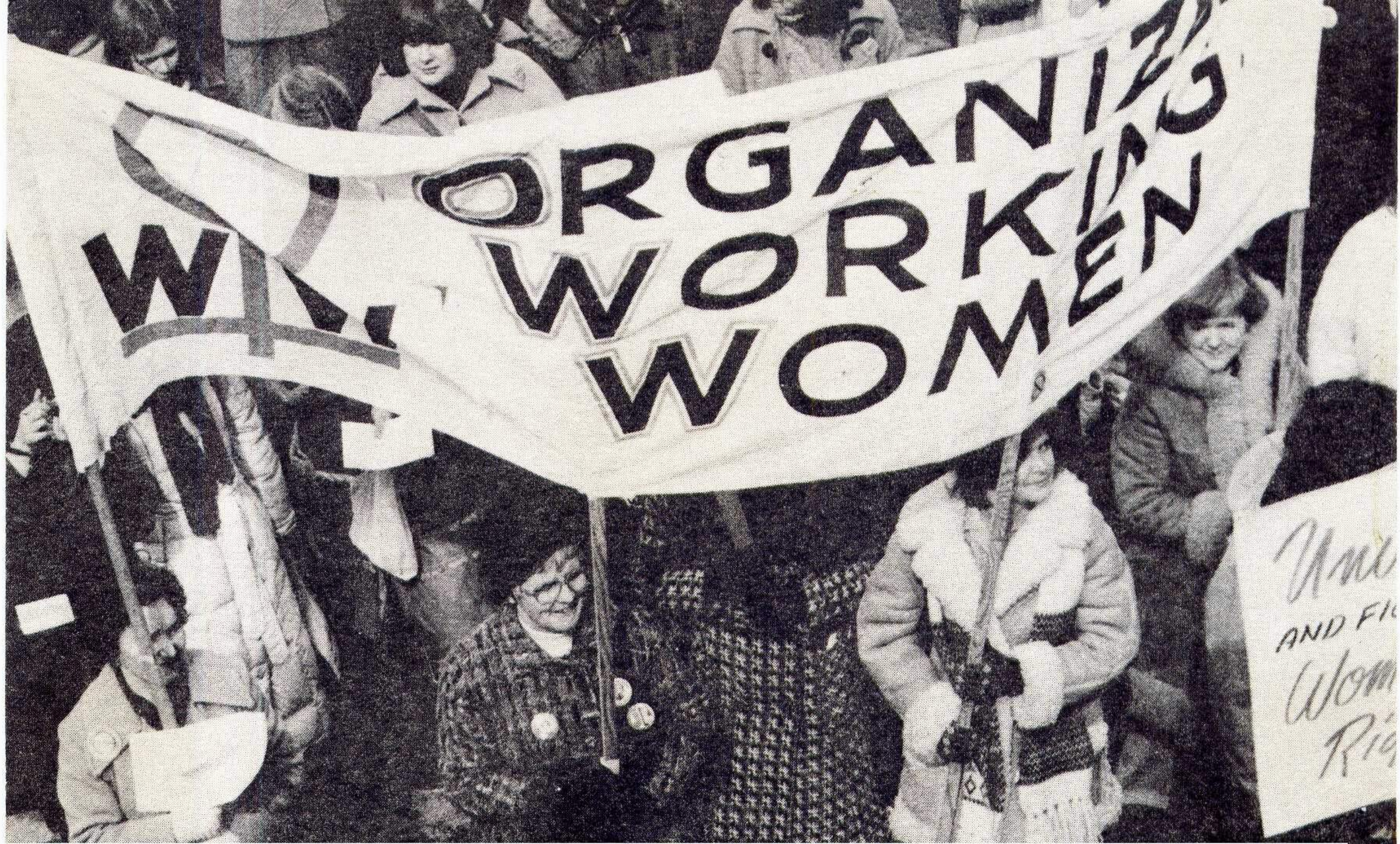


1980 -- Ross with Polish Solidarnosc solidarity contingent, Labor Day Parade (Toronto--with Steinbok daughter & Marc Kopyto, below)





c.1980 -- Ross & Harry Kopyto begin decade of battling the RCMP in the highest Ontario and Canadian courts for slander and for sabotaging legal Canadian dissent



Lois Bedard leading OWW group at IWD March, 1980

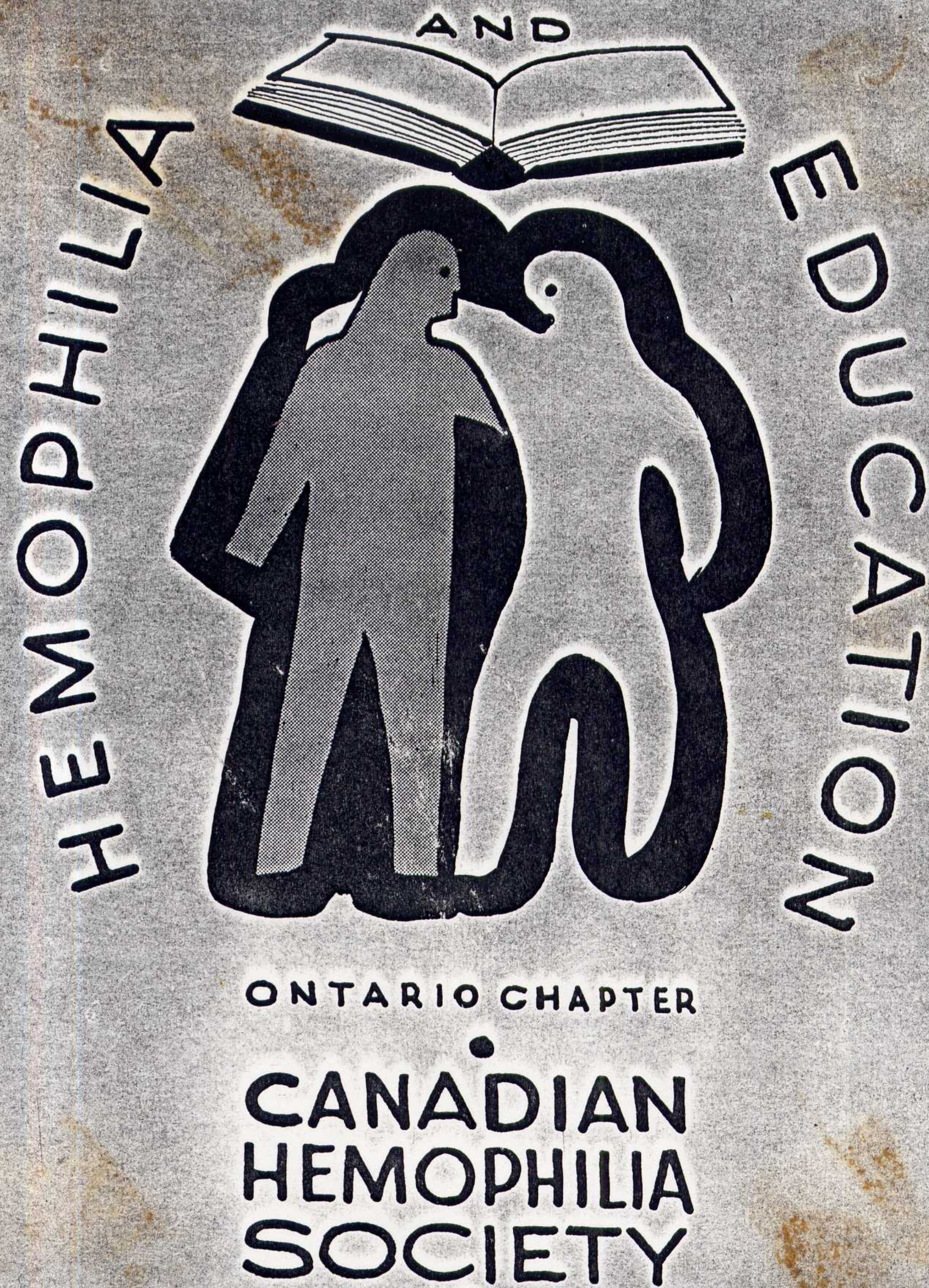
VOTE NDP ELECT
GORD DOCTOROW
YORK MILLS



**THE
NEW
DEMOCRATS**  
Authorized by York Mills NDP 



(Ross' sister Lois Bedard a lifelong supporter and activist c.1985



Lois Bedard & sister Joyce
founding members CHS --
nephew Ron's treatment
lacked modern treatment



1987 -- Ross's 70th Birthday celebration "55 years of Struggle," with sister Lois Bedard looking on
(40-minute video & testimonials available from the website)



**Lois Bedard at
women's protest,
Parliament Hill c.1987**

MRS. L. E. REDARD
82 Mayfield Avenue
TORONTO 21, ONTARIO




Abortion Rights Action



Photo: Blaise Edwards La Presse canadienne

Le Dr Henry Morgentaler lève les bras en signe de victoire lors d'une conférence de presse à Toronto le 28 janvier 1988.



1990 -- Bedridden, unable to speak, Ross in hospital visited by longtime comrade and legal counsel Harry Kopyto

Obituaries

ROSS DOWSON

Life's work was 'labour of love'

A commitment to social justice helped win 20% of vote in Toronto mayoral race

BY BILL GLADSTONE, TORONTO

As a Trotskyite and leader of the Revolutionary Workers Party, Ross Dowson might have been expected to tarry on the fringes of Canadian political life forever, so it came as a considerable shock to many Torontonians when he drew 20 per cent of the vote in a mayoral race in the 1940s.

Mr. Dowson, who died Feb. 17 at the age of 84, never again approached that respectable showing in several subsequent municipal and federal elections. Still, he managed to make a significant mark on the Canadian political scene from the sidelines, in part by being a thorn in establishment's side.

Regarded by associates as a keen political strategist, he devised a popular protest slogan — "End Canada's Complicity in the War in Vietnam" — that helped shape the national antiwar movement of the sixties. Yearning to bring his socialist ideals to the masses, he forged a rough alliance between his leftist League for Socialist Action and the

NDP's youth wing, the Waffle.

In the 1970s, he initiated a high-profile court battle against the RCMP for labelling him a "subversive," which he lost despite a string of appeals that persisted for seven years. But his evidence before two federal commissions into RCMP wrongdoings was later instrumental in the eventual replacement of the RCMP's security service with a civilian agency.

Although he was a lifelong devotee of Marx, Lenin and Trotsky, he was a "homespun revolutionary," said his "comrade," Harry Kopyto, a legal agent. "If you want to know the secret of Ross Dowson, you won't find it in Russia, you'll find it

in Southern Ontario. Ross was totally Canadian. There was nothing foreign about him."

He was born in 1917 — "a rather prophetic year," observed his sister, Lois Bedard — as the third of seven children in a working-class family in the Toronto suburb of Weston. His father was a printer — from whom Ross acquired useful roto-gravure skills — an anarchist sympathizer and atheist who encouraged his children to think and act independently. An older brother, Murray, took Ross to CCF and Trotskyist meetings during the Depression. Young Ross formed a political club named after Spartacus, the leader of a slave rebellion in the Roman Empire, and distributed pamphlets, joined May Day marches and spoke at meetings.

"He got his politics from the hungry thirties, seeing working-class people share what they had while the upper class kept what they had to themselves," Mr. Kopyto said. "He believed in the social ownership and democratic control of the wealth of society."

When Earle Birney resigned as leader of the Canadian Trotskyist faction in 1939 to concentrate on being a poet, Mr. Dowson stepped into the gap. A high-school graduate who read voraciously, he was thrown suddenly into a sophisticated and chaotic milieu of politics, culture and ideas originating from a diverse range of people of Jewish, Ukrainian and other immigrant, working-class backgrounds.

Although disgusted by the "capitalist war machine," Mr. Dowson served in the Armed Forces, though never overseas; for a time he was a combat training officer at Camp Borden, Ont. At war's end in 1945, he was again disgusted at seeing

→ p. 2



Ross Dowson in 1964: 'He got his politics from the hungry thirties.'

Canadian troops being put to work on the docks and railways and in brickyards, foundries and packing plants. The government was attempting to get the peacetime economy rolling again, but Mr. Dowson saw it as scab labour and an abuse comparable with those of Hitler's Germany. Screaming at the top of his lungs, he urged mass resistance, but he alone resisted. He was arrested and paraded back to camp under armed guard.

Mr. Dowson had a talent for reducing complex ideas to their essence, Mr. Kopyto said. In his first mayoralty campaign, he printed a pamphlet with a drawing of "a muscular man, sleeves rolled up, using a broom to sweep out the corridors of city hall — sweeping away bankers in their black suits with dollar signs on their clothes." The pamphlet was distributed to tens of thousands of homes in Toronto, with the result that "one in five Torontonians voted for Ross," Mr. Kopyto said.

A publisher of many radical pamphlets as well as *The Workers Vanguard* and other leftist newspapers, Mr. Dowson ran bookstores

on Queen Street West and elsewhere that were each the focal point of a lively intellectual circle. "We talked about art, revolution, science, we'd show movies — there was even a drama group," Mr. Kopyto said. "It was a large and vibrant movement."

Among those interested, apparently, were RCMP operatives who spied on it for years, and eventually accrued a 2,000-page file on Mr. Dowson. They allegedly infiltrated the Socialist League and spread damaging secrets about Mr. Dowson and his associates; he blamed them for sowing the discord that led to its breakup in the mid-1970s.

To Trotskyists, Mr. Dowson's greatest accomplishment may have been his successful 1963 initiative to repair a historic rift in the worldwide Trotskyist movement, known as the Fourth International. Yet despite his reputation as a revolutionary, he was very much a "creature of habit," Mr. Kopyto said. "He'd always close the bookstore at 6 o'clock, go to the restaurant next door at 6:05, and eat a hot hamburger with mashed potatoes. He'd always go to bed at the same time.

He was a man of total discipline."

From the late 1960s through the late 1980s, he occupied a tiny apartment on Toronto's Home-wood Avenue. As he was entirely devoted to the revolution, he never married, but remained the centre of a coterie of comrades who considered him a brilliant mentor.

"He was asked once why he was prepared to make such a great personal sacrifice, and he said it wasn't a sacrifice, it was a labour of love," said his friend, Gordon Doctorow, a teacher. "He did it because he took pleasure in writing and organizing and promoting the socialist ideals. He didn't think it was a sacrifice, he thought it was an amazing opportunity."

A stroke put him in the hospital in 1988, and he remained hospitalized, semi-paralyzed and hardly able to talk, for the rest of his life. He leaves sisters Lois Bedard and Margaret Joyce Rosenthal.

■ **Ross Jewitt Dowson**, revolutionary, born Toronto, Sept. 4, 1917; died Toronto, Feb. 17, 2002.

Special to The Globe and Mail